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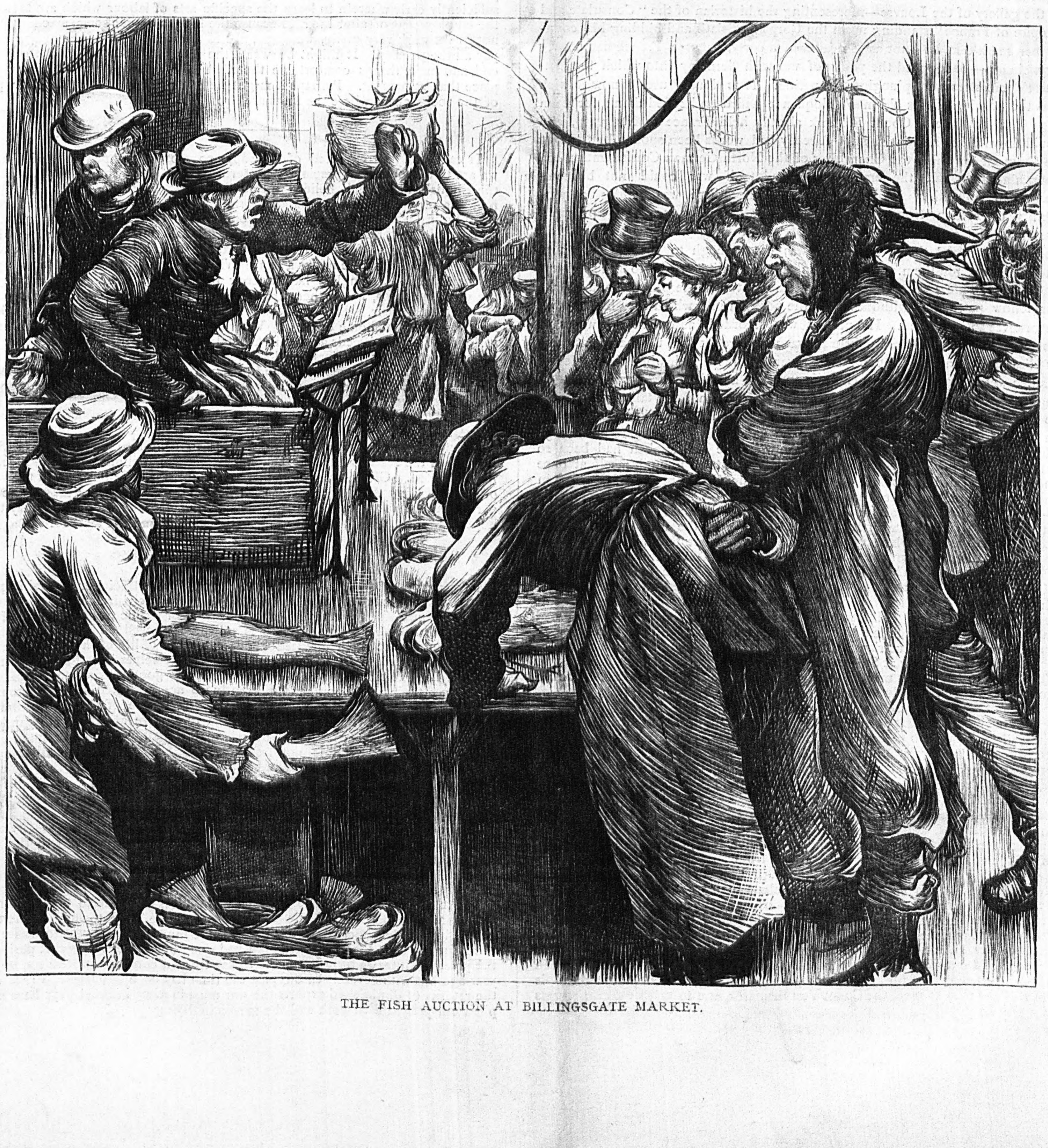
BILLINGSGATE MARKET.

It was morning, and "at five o'clock in the morning" too, but the birds were not "singing on every tree," as they do in the song at that hour. It was dark and cold, and rainy and slushy, and we saw no trees, for there were none to see, so that the birds could not sing in them, and even if there had been trees there were no birds whatever, with the exception, perhaps, of a few gaol birds, and they didn't sing, so that our experiences at five in the morning were utterly at variance with the song. But no matter. It was all through Mr. Sala that we "went in" on a sudden for fish and all things fishy. We had bought the evening papers and read therein that the celebrated author had been libelled by Mr. Hain Friswell, and that a verdict had been given in his favour, damages £500. Our thoughts were full of the famous Special, and when we reached home, we took down from the book-shelf the first volume we came to by Sala ("Twice Round the Clock"), to renew the acquaintance. We began at the first article in the book ("Billingsgate Market") and found the matter fresh and piquant, although we had read it all before. The result was that we stayed up much later than usual, and instead of going to bed like sober-minded folk, we actually went through rain and dirt to realize Mr. Sala's sketch, and see the fish at Billingsgate; and this is one of the many pictures we saw. It is the "Fish Auction" about which we hope to have something to say in a succeeding number.



THE FISH AUCTION AT BILLINGSGATE MARKET.

THE HEAD OF THE EXECUTIVE.

To Imperialists and apologists for the declaration of war in France; to the Prussians who have charged upon the whole French nation the responsibility of the campaign and its consequences; to neutrals all round, looking on and endeavouring to form a righteous judgment; to historians and men of letters all over Europe, who will be seeking to determine the great secret of the outbreak of hostilities between these two great powers, the present ascendency of M. Adolphe Thiers in the Government of France is a most significant and instructive fact. On the never-to-be-forgotten day last July, when the Duc de Gramont committed the Government and the people of the empire to this awful struggle, a brave old man rose in the Assembly, and insisted upon being heard. He was hooted and yelled at by nine-tenths of the representatives. His voice was drowned by cries of "Vive la Guerre!" and by the patriotic shouts which for the next few weeks were the chief sounds to be heard in the streets of Paris. To the excited spirits around him it seemed monstrous that this little man—a dissentient standing almost alone, unmoved by the patriotic fires that were raging on the right and on the left—should be permitted to raise a note of discord in the midst of the harmonious and overwhelming war cry. But this small figure was the orator of the House, the finest rhetorician in France, perhaps then and now the most eloquent man in Europe. He was the first of his name, but he was old enough in years and remarkable enough in deeds to be historic. He had been great in two revolutions, and great in the reigns of two dynasties. For nearly half a century he had been, in politics and in letters, one of the foremost Frenchmen of his age, and whether he were on the popular or unpopular side, his genius, his fiery energy, and his wonderful gift of speech never failed to secure him a hearing, and an audience who hung upon his words for the time as upon those of one inspired. This was M. Adolphe Thiers, and he demanded to be listened to at that supreme moment in the history of France in protest against the declaration of war. When this awful trial through which the grand nation is passing shall be at an end, there should be an artist in France who can catch the spirit of that memorable scene, and paint a picture for the restored Palace of the Luxembourg—to be placed on a later day in the gallery of the Louvre—representing the historian of the "Consulate and Empire of France" standing up in the Corps Legislatif and bidding his countrymen mark that he—not as the leader of a party, but as a Frenchman among Frenchmen—denounced the policy of war with Germany into which the Emperor's ministers were plunging the nation. It is doubly useless now to wish that the warning of this old man's eloquence had been heeded then; for even then it was too late. Count Bismark already held France in his grasp, and could do with her as he wished. Already had words been spoken by the Duc de Gramont for which the Chancellor of the North German Confederation had determined to call the empire to account—if war could not be compassed in any other fashion—and for France there was hardly a possibility of escape from the struggle for which Germany had prepared herself. But in France at that hour men knew not how the toils had been drawn round them, and none was wise enough to see the trap that had been set for them. There was a blind wild rush to the front, and this M. Thiers was the man who attempted to bar the passage and to ask his fellow patriots to withdraw from the position into which they had allowed themselves to be allured. His protest was recorded, and then the waves of war rolled up, and the aged politician was no more heeded till that great crisis of disaster when the Emperor had given up his sword, when the armies of France were accounted for by German generals, and the Prussians were marching on Paris. Then came M. Thiers forth once again. He talked no longer to his countrymen—he did not twit them with the fatal mistake against which in his experience and keen foresight he had warned them. He did not go about asking men to take note of how the words he had spoken had been so quickly and so terribly justified by the result. He took upon himself at once the grave responsibility of seeking to interest the Governments of Europe in the cause of France. There are many Englishmen—daily increasing in number—who think the Courts of Europe might well have listened to M. Thiers then, and, by a joint action, have put such a pressure upon the masters of the victorious forces as would have constrained them to accept terms of peace which might have been endurable to the pride and patriotism of the French people. There was that in M. Thiers's proposals which might have prevented all the bloodshed and misery and destruction which have shocked the conscience of Europe since last September, if his scheme were practicable: and it is the opinion of great politicans and good judges of the force of combined intervention that the scheme was one not unworthy of the consideration of statesmen, English, Austrian and Italian. But the memorable "mission of peace" failed. Neither at St. James's, at St. Petersburg, at Vienna, Florence, or Versailles did M. Thiers meet with any encouragement; and he retired, broken down with fatigue and almost broken-hearted, from his gigantic task.

Is it not something to the honour of France that she has taken the first opportunity—in the first pause in the concentration of her attention upon her unparalleled woes—to place her cause in the hands of the man who has cut out for himself this singular place in the history of these eight months? He who protested against the war and would be listened to—though it were but for a moment—when no other dissentient could get himself a hearing, is the man now placed by the voice of the nation at the head of affairs in France. He who took upon his own shoulders the burden of a task which he had no hand in the making of, and struggled in the midst of war for peace till his own countrymen forbade him from attempting farther, is now made the mouthpiece of his nation, and does not shrink from incurring the unwelcome responsibility of contriving with the enemy, in the moment of his country's prostration, terms which can hardly fail to chafe their pride and render them rebellious—even, perhaps, to repudiation—when strength begins to come back. It is, let us all acknowledge, a noble and courageous spirit that has taken, for the present hour, the foremost place on the French political stage; and it is, we cannot deny, an act of which the French people have the right to be proud, to have singled out this man to represent the nation at so awful a crisis. He who protested against the war at the outset, and sought to stop it midway—is not this the man to meet the Count Von Bismarck, and to extract the best terms that may be possible?

TABLE TALK.

Need we make haste to give poor children what is called "industrial training"? Now that our attention is engrossed with educational questions, this is a point about which it seems necessary to make up our minds. Here, as everywhere else in connection with economic topics, utilitarian considerations force themselves to the front, and succeed in obtaining, perhaps, an undue influence. There is so much that wants doing—there is so large an amount of hardship demanding to be ameliorated, so much looming misery and poverty to be counteracted, so much that is crooked now and threatens to be hardly less awkwardly shaped in the future, to endeavour by all possible means to straighten, that we are naturally almost over anxious to make a beginning. In the streets are innumerable children growing up to be useless, and there are thousands of older waifs and strays of society who never learned to do anything serviceable, and possess no sort of honest available accomplishment. Hence comes the impulse which moves us, as soon as we get hold of the children, however young, to begin to teach them to adapt their hands to some industrial operation. Yet the policy seems very questionable. Life is a serious matter, no doubt, but let us beware of rendering it more serious still. While nothing was being done in a wholesale and systematic way to educate our juvenile population, it seemed a good thing to secure only a stray child here and there, and to show it the way to take its place afterwards in the ranks of those who earn a living by work. Now, however, a great change has been brought about. We are not going to snatch a few brands from destruction—our aim is to do the work of education quietly and completely, and should we not decide that for the very tender years during which the pupils are at the elementary schools, mental instruction, physical training, and play are enough? Is it a pleasant spectacle to see little boys at eight, nine, and ten years of age trying to be mechanics—not in play, but in earnest? Can it be necessary that the little girl during her first ten years should sit down between school hours to sew and knit, or betake herself to washing, and ironing and cooking? In a book on schools and school systems recently published, some fault is found with the wonderful Orphanage conducted by that extraordinary man George Müller, of Bristol, on the ground of a deficiency in industrial training. The criticism suggests these doubts on the subject. Is not adult life long enough for actual work; and is not the period between twelve or fourteen years of age and manhood and womanhood, sufficiently early wherein to learn the specific arts of labour which are to form the employment of after life? Because the hinges of our social machinery do not as yet work very easily, we ought not to attempt to make the young people pay all the penalty. It might be worth the experiment to begin at the lower end, and make things comfortable there. The strain cannot be in a worse place than at present. Perhaps it might be made to move itself to some part of the social chain where the links are stronger.

It can hardly be expected of a people so closely wrapped up in clothes as we are to thoroughly appreciate sculpture. There is reason to doubt whether the English, in general, believe in this divine art. And what is worse, they do not, as a rule, believe in the human form. There is a prejudice abroad about this physical shape of ours. Apart from what is understood as propriety, we find people entertaining a sort of conventional objection to the mould in which we are cast. Men and women manage to tolerate themselves, but one among another they are under a ban. Whence comes this uncomfortable predisposition? The English have a fancy for animals. There is no country in the world, perhaps, where there are so many favourites of the inferior species, domestic and other. The Arab cannot surpass us in love of the horse. Great Britain is the best home of dogs. Where could be seen such an exhibition of varieties of canine breeds as at the Crystal Palace or at Birmingham? We are indeed a nation of "fanciers," and as good judges of points, of animal form, and perfection of mould as may be found in the hemisphere. May not our species hold its own with these many rivals? Why should there not be fancy specimens among us, and fanciers? There is not an animal in all creation that could enter the lists in competition with us. Let us be as proper as we please, but not deprecatory as well as proper. We should know the grounds on which propriety is based, and not allow ourselves to drift into entertaining artificial notions of the reasons for the excellent customs which climate and good feeling have dictated. Give men and women their due for their position in the scale of physical life. Acknowledge that there is no form under the heavens to compare with that of the properly constructed human animal; and we may then hope to make some progress in the art of sculpture and the taste for it.

If our manners and customs are to be regarded as artificial or natural in proportion as they take their rise in the tendencies of civilized or of savage life, the ambition which besets most of us for social or public position is one of the most natural of phenomena. Caste is nowhere so well understood as among tribes who are not much elevated above the scale of life of the lower animals. Travelling in outlandish countries we may find ourselves introduced to a small party of miserable looking wretches, without any good quality to distinguish them from their neighbours, and presently we are informed that they are the high breed among their people. Social position is one of the most primitive of institutions, and it is one that promises to outlive any theory that may be afloat among us in its despite. The desire for distinction in public life is a separate ambition, but it is not less antique. Never was there a colony of human creatures without leaders and aspirants for leadership, and the similarity of the old allurement and the modern is very striking. Just as we find a certain resemblance in form throughout all animal life, from the meanest insect up to man, so we discern very close analogies between the earliest and the latest methods of living in community. The arts make all the difference. Social Science was the first of the sciences, and strangely enough it is still the one most in its infancy.

What makes the difference between this winter and last in the matter of distress among the poor in the metropolis and the large towns? There is almost invariably sufficient destitution in these months of the year to lead us to think for the time that the season is a bad one; but in the very worst period of the present winter we have been able to say that, in comparison with not only a year ago but with several seasons past the time has been favourable. In spite of the returns of diminished exports the war must in many indirect ways have supplied our people with work and the means of living.

"AFTER DARK."

A SKETCH IN THE STREETS.

"MURDER! Murder!" You have heard the cry before, no doubt, my friend; heard it on your way from the theatre or from Evans's, when taking a short cut to your rooms. It is a terrible cry; but somehow one gets used to it in London. Yet not so used to it but that it occasionally excites one's sympathy and interest.

Terrible cries of murder arrested my footsteps the other night, not far from Garrick-street. A few yards brought me to the scene of the disturbance. I think they called the locality Newport-street or Prince's-buildings. A crowd surrounded a fainting woman, light skirmishing between some few others of the sex going on at the outskirts of the throng.

"Give the girl air, can't you," said a rough-looking fellow, who held a limp, gasping young woman in his arms. "Get her some water. One would think you weren't human."

"Let her go to the 'orspital," said a stalwart woman, brandishing a brawny arm, and cleaving a way through the throng,

"Who are you?" asked the first speaker.

"I'm her mawther, I am."

"Then why don't you do something for your child? Get her some water."

"She don't want no water—take her to the 'orspital."

Upon which the fainting girl was led away, her hair falling in ragged heaps upon her shoulders.

Meanwhile a second damsel who had been in the fight re-engaged in a short closing encounter with the mother, and then made her escape.

I was curious to see the end of the disturbance. I had not followed the fainting person many paces before her "mawther" set up another wild scream of "Murder!" followed by a shriller yell of "Police!" In a moment the girl with her hair down came out of her faint, responding to the war-whoop quite vigorous and fresh.

"Well, upon my soul!" said the good Samaritan-in-chief who had held her, "there's a woman for you—nothing the matter with her."

Nor was there. For, joined by her mother, she once more plunged headlong into a general free fight, at the close of which the police appeared.

Up to this time nothing had been said of robbery. The heroine of the first encounter had disappeared.

"Where's that Mackney gal?" asked "the mawther."

"Gone, and I've lost one of my ear-rings," said the daughter, whom they called Sarah Burke.

"Charge her with stealing it—I'll do it," said the "mawther:" and at this, in a fresh burst of feminine excitement, she pitched upon the pavement something out of a bundle. I looked down, and beheld it was a child. The infant fell upon a doorstep, and seemed quite used to it.

"She's had a month just now," said the "mawther." "I'll give that gal in charge for stealing my daughter's ear-ring!—hang her, she shall have another month."

"Come, clear out of this," said the police; "clear out."

"Robbery! stop thief!" shouted the "mawther." This way, good gentlemen. That Mackney gal's the thief."

The police followed "the mawther," who led the way to an adjacent house; and close by me, in the darkness, she struck another woman a violent blow on the head, then screamed "Murder! murder!" and swore some one had nearly killed her that very moment.

The police, somewhat bewildered, tried to clear the narrow street, which was blocked up with vegetable carts and costers' trucks, as well as with a dirty, yelling fighting crowd.

At the door of Mackney's house stood the proprietor, in his shirt sleeves.

'What the divle d ye wont here?" he asked, in a rich Irish Brogue.

"To see your daughter," said the police; and they pushed into the black, narrow passage, where a barred door stayed their progress.

"Do you persist in charging this girl with felony?" one of them asked, turning upon "the mawther."

"Yes, the brute, with robbery; I see her do it."

"Oh, you liar!" said another woman close by.

"Liar yourself!" said "the mawther," making a dash at her censor, and sending me flying against a rough fellow, who for a moment seemed inclined to resent the affront on my innocent self.

"Will you open this door?" shouted the police.

"Divle a bit, you've no right here," exclaimed the Irishman. "Where's your warrant?"

"You won't unlock it—you have the key."

"Never!"

"Break it in! Oh, the base robber," exclaimed "the mawther," with an aside whisper to her daughter. "We'll have her now, swear you see her do it.'

And then crash went the door, and out dragged the officers a pale, slender girl, whom they proceeded to remove.

I followed them, and when the crowd had thinned somewhat, I ventured to speak to one of the policemen.

"Did you find the ring upon her?" I asked most deferentially.

"Dy'e think *we* search a woman?" was the officer's reply, looking pityingly down upon me.

"She never stole the ring," I said; "the charge is simply a piece of malice."

"Oh," was all the officer's reply.

"Here, sir, what's to be done along of the baby?" asked an urchin in rags, not much bigger than the other urchin in its arms.

"Go along," said the officer. At that moment "the mawther" came up, and took her offspring, and folded it in her shawl as she had done once before.

It was past midnight. The gas lamps gleamed fitfully upon the little ragged procession as it passed through sundry dark alleys, and finally emerged into Regent Street, where painted jades were still promenading, and late cabmen were picking up infamous fares.

We crossed to the station-house, and there I begged permission to enter with the charge.

All the time there kept close to my side a fierce looking foreigner, who at every remark that I made in disparagement of "the mawther," and in favour of the accused, seem to scowl upon me ferociously However much I avoided him he still perseveringly placed himself on my right hand, ever with the same fiendish looking glare.

The officer in charge smiled kindly when I spoke, evidently amused at my useless philanthropy in appearing there.

"I should certainly not have come," I said, "did I not feel that it is the duty of an Englishman, when he sees an act of injustice being perpetrated, to do his best to prevent the accomplishment of such a design."

"Certainly, sir," said the officer.

"Thank you, kind sir," said the prisoner, whom they had put into a sort of dock.

"This person who has given the prisoner in charge is evidently a very bad woman. She was most violent, and I heard her arrange to bring this charge."

The foreigner glared at me, and "the mawther," unable to control her rage at my interference, made a dash at me, still baby in arms. She was ejected in consequence, and the case proceeded.

The "mawther's" daughter persisted in the charge of robbery, and the inspector explained to me that he had no other alternative but to enter it.

"And will she be locked up?"

"Yes; until Monday morning."

The night was Saturday. During the brawl it had become Sunday, so the prisoner would receive two days' imprisonment beforehand. I explained that this was hard, and offered, like a generous donkey, to be bail for the accused.

"Can't take bail for felony."

"Then I will appear on Monday at Marlborough Street."

"Very kind of you, sir," said the inspector; and he wrote down my name.

"Heaven bless you," said the prisoner.

And I inwardly invoked heaven's protection against that fierce desperate foreigner, at whose hands I expected a violent assault.

I was too proud to ask for the protection of the police; but it occurred to me that I had better explain to this bandit-looking fellow that my only interest in the case was an honest desire to see justice done.

"You appear to be angry, sir," I said, in my blandest accents, "at the course I have taken in this business."

"No, sair. I tank you, sair, ver' much; from my heart, sair. De girl is as innocent as ze babe vot is not born."

"I am glad you think so; I feared you thought me meddlesome."

"Oh no, sair. I sall take your hand, sair, for your kindness. You are *un bon brave Angleterre—très bon Anglais*."

Tears fell hot and fast upon my hand.

"Zat girl," he went on, "vas in prison von month for my sake, sair; and on Monday she vas to be my wife, sair—on ze Monday, sair."

"And so she shall," I said, looking round defiantly.

I felt almost disappointed that he was not a cut-throat. Never was my physiognomical acuteness so much at fault. This bandit was a tender, soft-hearted Frenchman. When we got into the street "the mawther" had disappeared, and a small crowd, crying, "This is the gentleman," insisted upon escorting me home. They were nearly all Irish, and they called for all manner of blessings on my head.

On Monday morning, when I went to the police-court I found that nearly all the two contending families had succeeded in getting into gaol within two hours after I had left them I had the satisfaction of seeing "the mawther" fined for an assault on my poor foreigner; the first prisoner's mother fined for assaulting the said first prisoner's father; Sarah Burke sentenced to a week for rioting near the gaol; and "that Mackney gal" acquitted of the charge of robbery.

That very day, as I had promised him, the foreigner wedded "ze innocent girl." At night "the mawther's" baby died in her arms. And this is life in London!

JOSEPH HATTON.

PLAYS AND PLAYERS.

MISS NEILSON is going into the provinces on a starring engagement with the Drury Lane version of "Amy Robsart." Birmingham and Manchester are the two principal towns in the tour. The stock company of Drury Lane does not, we presume, go with her. This will be no loss to the provinces, and indeed, the piece itself is much overrated. It was splendidly mounted at Drury Lane, and as badly acted as it could be. Miss Neilson has undoubted dramatic power. She is not seen to advantage as Amy Robsart. Like most of our modern actresses she has contracted a most objectionable mannerism.

MRS. ROUSBY may be mentioned as an exception to the affectation school of our young actresses, who copy defects of elocution from each other. But Mrs. Rousby wants enthusiasm. She lacks fire. She mars some of the more effective scenes in "'Twixt Axe and Crown" by this absence of warmth, and vigour, and excitement. A beautiful woman, did she possess the force of true dramatic genius, she might fill the leading place in her profession. "Joan of Arc" will give her an opportunity of gainsaying the general observation even of her friends—that she wants enthusiasm. The part is one that taxes the highest power of the dramatic artist.

MR. TOM TAYLOR, we hear, has written a new play for Miss Neilson which is to be produced after that lady's tour in the provinces.

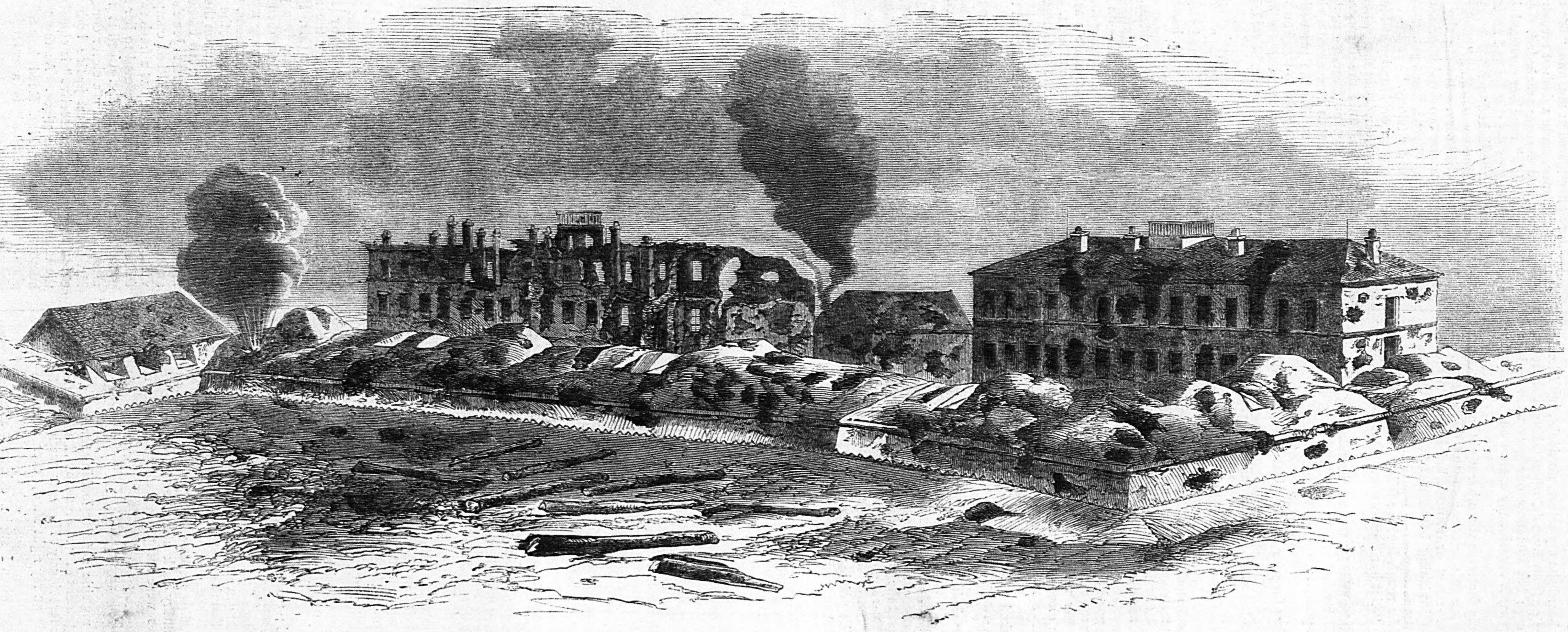
THE Gallery of Illustration continues to prove as great an attraction as ever to its numerous patrons. "A Sensation Novel" is a happy conception admirably worked out. The story is that of an author (Mr. German Reed), who has sold himself to the Spirit of Romance (Mr. Corney Grain), by whose power he has under his control the stock characters of sensation fiction—Lady Rockalda (Mrs. German Reed), "the weird beauty with the yellow hair and panther-like movement," Alice Gray (Miss Fanny Holland), "the virtuous and demure governess," Gripper (Mr. Grain), "the sensation detective who is always too late," and Sir Ruthven Glenalvon (Mr. Reed), "the wicked Baronet." These characters come before us in their true positions outside the novel and in the various unreal positions invented for them by the author, who libels their dispositions, insists upon making the wrong man woo the wrong lady, and is about to marry them contrary to their inclinations. On the very morning fixed for the completion of these nuptial arrangements, the whole of the characters revolt. Mr. German Reed has supplied the music upon the brightness and excellence of which we may fairly congratulate him. "No Father's Care" is an exquisite bit of ballad music, and the duet, "Rarest Jewels," is charming. Miss Holland is an important addition to the Reed company. A graceful actress; she sings with admirable taste. She has a fresh sweet voice, expressive and interesting features, and is evidently devoted to her art. As Herbert de Browne, "the irreproachable young tutor," Mr. Cecil is really funny. His song in vol. III. is nightly redemanded; it is a clever conceit of both writer and composer; and Mr. Cecil does the fullest justice both to music and words, Mr. Corney Grain's song of "the detective" is equally good, and Mr. Reed throughout is the useful man of the piece. As the "Wicked Baronet" he is grotesquely humorous. As for Mrs. Reed herself, she gets younger in every part she plays. Her "Rockalda" is a splendid satire on the yellow-haired fiend; and she sings the music in the same rich unctuous voice that has always won its way to both the heart and the fancy. Mr. Corney Grain's "Baden Baden," which closes the Gallery Entertainment, reminds us too much of Mr. Parry. By the way, Mr. Grain is not unlike his prototype in facial expression. Some day he may approach him in that peculiar line which John Parry made for himself, but at present Mr. Corney Grain suffers very much by the comparison. Nevertheless, there is not a pleasanter or more delightful entertainment in town than that provided at the Gallery of Illustration.

KING AMADEUS'S ENTRY INTO MADRID.

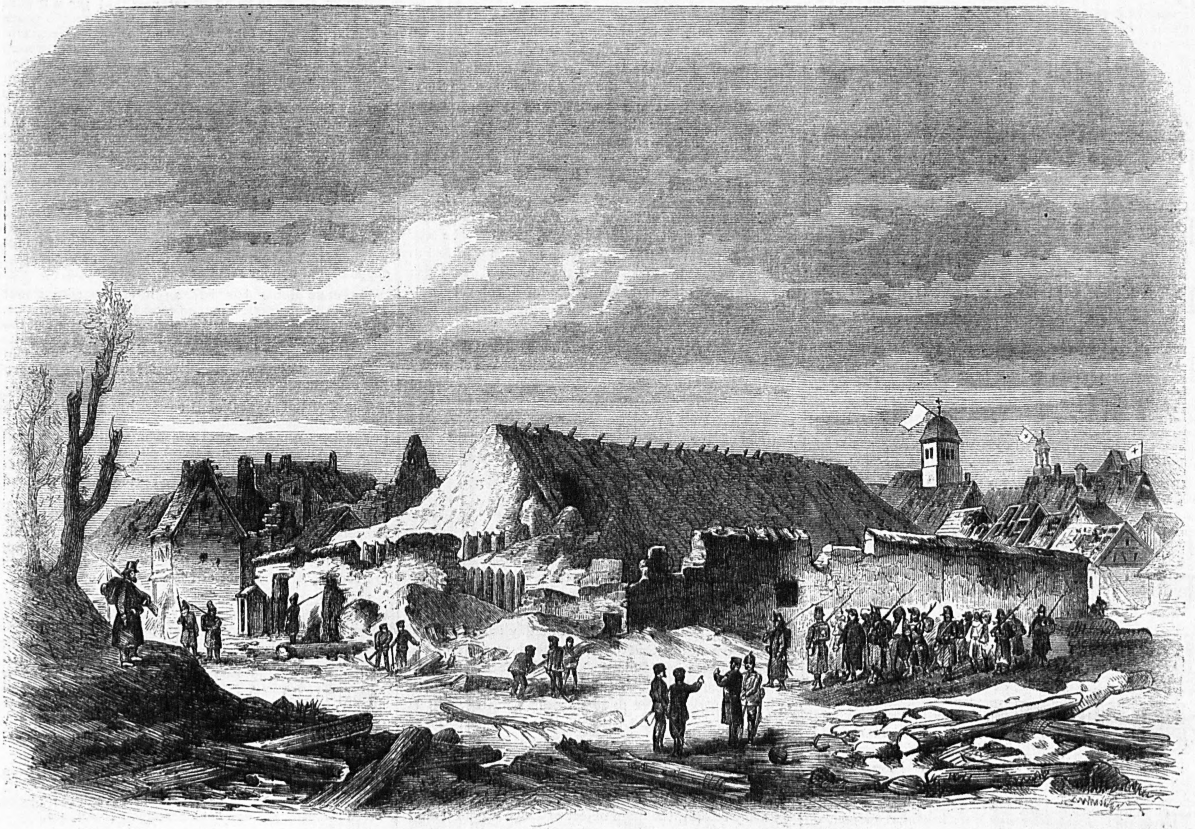
Amadeus I., King of Spain, entered Madrid on the 2nd January, and our engraving (on page 120), will give the reader an idea of his reception before the House of Deputies. Though his friend Marshal Prim had been assassinated but a short time before, and predictions were rife that he also would be received with bullets when he made his appearance, yet undeterred by threats he rode slowly through the streets of the Spanish capital without in any wise showing fear. He was not greeted with bullets, but with enthusiastic cries of "Viva el Rey!" He was not only a king in name, but he looked a king, and his martial bearing, struck the populace with admiration. "In the Cortes," says the *Echo*, "as he exclaimed in formal answer to the President's solemn questions, "*Si iuro*," there was nothing but salvos of *Viva el Rey*. Some will explain the enthusiasm in one way, some in a another. Perhaps the people desired to signify their respect to him who lay mangled at Atocha, and the cordial reception of King Amadeus was, possibly, in some respects an episode in the celebration of the funeral of Prim. The young King having doubtless pleased the people and won great confidence, there may have been a wish to greet kindly one whom bluff Topete took to his heart. Or, perhaps, it was the simple honest joy of a people essentially monarchical at heart, feeling themselves shepherdless no longer—glad that the Escurial and La Granja were not to be for ever tenantless, and probably they did not forget that the young prince who was to wield the sceptre of Charles V. and Philip II. sprung from a Royal House, one of the most ancient in Europe, and remotely connected with that which so long ruled Spain. Perhaps the Spanish people, exclusive though they be, think all kings brothers, and care not to rake up his genealogy in their joy that he was of veritable royal blood. At any rate there were *vivas* in abundance, explain them how one may. Those that anticipated for him a reception bitter and fierce as the climate of Madrid itself—"nine months of winter and three months of hell," as the Madrid proverb runs—were disappointed; and when Amadeus retired from the balcony of the palace, the shouts that greeted his "*Viva Espana*" must have told him he had not stumbled in his first steps. But what are those *vivas* worth? Only two years ago they had been showered in far larger measure and with more enthusiasm on Prim. The chatter of the street is but a poor index of the actual beat of the popular pulse. Had there been some critical Caius Marcius in the crowd that lined the streets he would have rated the clamour cheaply, and would have said:—

He that depends
Upon your favour, swims with fins of lead,
And hews down oaks with rushes. Hang ye! trust ye?
With every minute do you change a mind,
And call him noble that was now your hate,
Him vile that was your garland.

King Amadeus may not be acquainted with Shakespeare, but he is too sensible to be deluded by the fickle flattery of the market-place into false confidence; and even if his temperament disposed him to think his throne was as stable as if his blood were Castilian, there have not been wanting around him significant foreshadowings of the troubles awaiting him. The murder of Prim was the first warning. The assassins of the Conde Reus live, and they may be emboldened by impunity. The *ultima ratio* of the desperate Spanish politician has always been the bullet or the knife, and if he escape this danger, as we hope for the honour of Spain and for humanity he will, King Amadeus must look for other perils. On the very day on which the Prince was proclaimed King of Spain, amid the acclamations of the Deputies, a keen eye might have observed a little cloud gathering in the corner of the heaven, now but a hand-breadth in size, yet soon destined perhaps to expand into vast proportions. At a time when, to speak emphatically and courtier-like, was the duty of all, President Zorilla could not help saying, "We have before us a future more or less turbulent, which can in no manner be very tranquil." He judged truly, but, perhaps, he himself did not anticipate so quick a verification of his prediction. The Republican party, while disavowing, by the mouth of Figueras, complicity in, or sympathy with the assassination perpetrated in the Calle Alcala, and while repudiating the incentive to regicide freely propagated by *El Combate*, stubbornly adhere to their intention of opposing a Government which they believe has violated the Constitution, and which they assume has stepped between them and the certainty of success. Alongside of the Monarchy openly exists a Republican Directory, and Castelar, Margall, and Figueras publish in its name proclamations which intimate that they are pleased in the meantime to hold their hands, and not to overturn King Amadeus by force. But clearly they do not intend to let the grass grow under their feet. Trusting to the discontent which must infallibly manifest itself to some degree, they mean to use all constitutional—and, perhaps, some unconstitutional—weapons in order to unseat him. And the insurrection, trifling though it be, which has just broken out in Granada, tells us that their followers outstrip the zeal of the leaders. Soon the King will have to fight for his throne against a Republican party. Nor will he fight with unity in the ranks. Neither the Montpensierists nor the Carlists, as the meeting of the Cortes after the death of Prim attested, are likely to sink their claims much longer than expediency dictates. The Duc de Montpensier is not the man—is not, some will say, so weak-minded, others will say not so strong minded—as to abandon his pretensions because he failed to muster a sufficient number of votes on a certain occasion. The chapter of accidents is large, particularly in anarchical Spain. Nor will he who, no duellist himself, and unaccustomed to handle a pistol, faced an accomplished duellist like Don Henry, be the person to be deterred by intimidation. Having a somewhat solid courage, and having set his mind on acquiring the throne, he will be pretty snre to strike in whenever the errors or misfortunes of Amadeus give him an opportunity. There are, therefore, troubles and trials in abundance in store for the young King, and he must meet them single-handed. With no powerful adviser or *clientele* to back him up, failure must be quick or his success remarkable; and if the latter comes to pass, he will be able to say, "Alone I did it." In one of his letters Paul Louis Caurier says, in his bitter way, "What a prince can do anybody can." But Caurier was a prejudiced observer. Certainly, if Prince Amadeus manages to swim through the anarchical surf that will oppose him when he starts on his voyage, and if he remain King Amadeus even for a few years, he will have done a feat which will certify that he is one of those who are kings not by the accident of an accident, but by a better right."



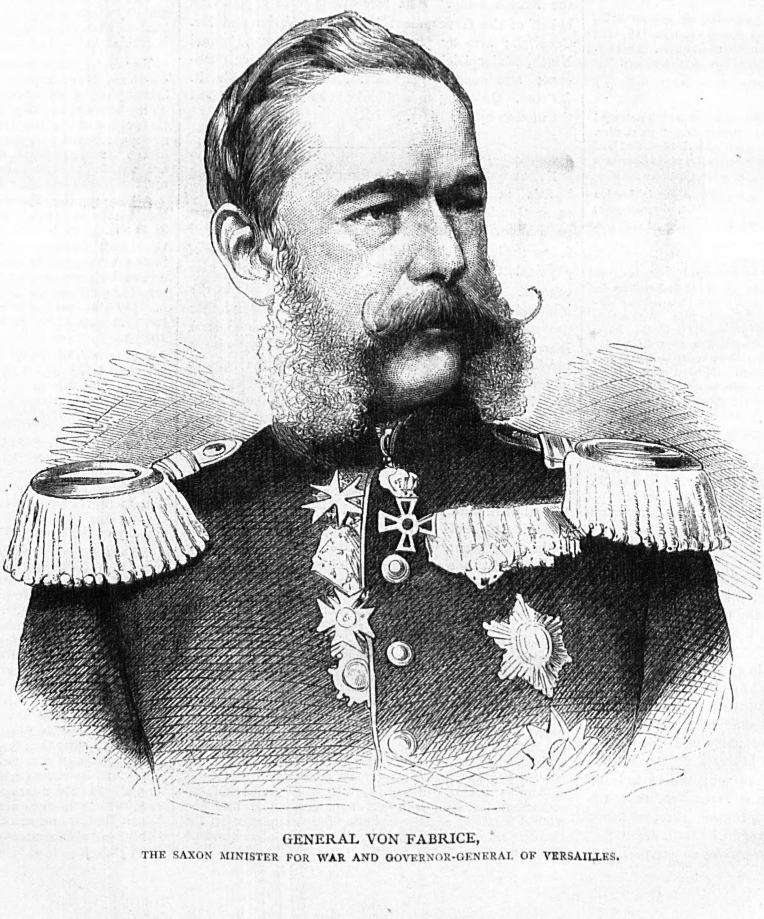
BEFORE PARIS: FORT MONT ROUGE ON THE 9TH JANUARY.



POWDER MAGAZINE, NEW BREISACH.

MONT AVRON.

OUR illustration on page 121 represents Mont Avron after it had been left by the French. The correspondent of the *Daily News*, who visited the deserted place, gives a graphic account of the appearane it presented. "There met our eyes," he says, " one of the weirdest scences that imagination could conjure up. Ground ploughed with shells, embrasures stove in, parallels all but oliberated, and yet not a single cannon left behind. But if the French have removed their cannon, they have left their dead. One slides and stumbles over a little ice puddle. The ice blushes up red in his face—it is frozen human blood. Behind the batteries and inside the breastworks the dead lie thick. Dead! No man who has long followed this war but must be so familiar with the aspect of slain men that the original thrill and turn of the blood at the sight is a memory of the past at which he all but smiles. But the terrible ghastliness of these dead transcends anything I have ever seen or dreamt of in the shuddering nightmare after my first battlefield. Remember how they were slain. Not with the nimble bullet of the needle-gun, that drills a minute hole through a man and leaves him undisfigured, unless it has chanced to strike his face; not with the trenchant sabre cut of the dragoon, not with the sharp stab of the bayonet, but slaughtered with missiles of terrible weight, shattered into fragments by explosions of many pounds of powder, mangled and torn by massive fragments of iron. There lay behind one of the embrasures a form utterly headless—I suppose the shell had struck the hapless being full in the face and carried head and throat before it in its fierce rush. The guillotine could not have performed the operation more cleanly. But what need to dwell in detail on such a topic? Let it suffice that there lay the unburied and abandoned dead among the snow stained with their blood and with the depressions in those ghastly faces turned up to the calm moonlight, drifted up by the snowflakes which had fallen since they had been shot down. When will they be buried? When will these wan faces cease to look up into the eyes of the moon, in silent but eloquent protestation against the institution called war? When will the stray human fragments over which one stumbles as he goes be gathered together and their ghastliness be hidden beneath friendly earth? Not yet. Men will not dig graves as if they were blasting tunnels, and the earth is as hard as the bowels of Mont Cenis. The corpses on Mont Avron must lie there till a thaw comes. How long after it would be rash to prognosticate. That gruesome group in the camp here who had been sitting round the fire when the shells came and burst in it and blew one and all of them into the other world, must remain as it is—a horrible mockery of conviviality, for a time at least. To look at the group from a little distance one would conclude that its members, lying or seated in a circle, were hobnobbing genially round a common pot or eating out of one dish. Come nearer and look inside that ring of squatting men, or what once were men. I care not how inured you are to sights of horror, you will turn away sick and scared from that circle of carnage. Behind the batteries, besides the relics I have alluded to, were found many evidences of the precipitation with which the French had evacuated the position."



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THE paper will be delivered to the public by any News-agent in London or Birmingham, or direct from the Birmingham Office, at 13s. a-year; or free by post from London for 15s., pre-paid.

TO ADVERTISERS.

THE ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS is now an established medium for public announcements. It combines with a first-class country circulation a growing and not unimportant London Sale. With a view to meet the increased demand for the paper, special publishing offices have been opened at 102, Fleet-street, in addition to those in Birmingham. THE ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS may now fairly claim to be regarded by London Advertisers not only as a country but a London paper. Arrangements are being made for a Special Supplement in commemoration of the marriage of the Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne.

Illustrated Midland News.

FEBRUARY 25, 1871.

THE history of Parliament during the past week has given us one or two curious illustrations of the disunion of the great Liberal party. Following up Sir Robert Peel's tremendous attack upon the Government, the divisions upon the University Tests Bill have placed the gentlemen below the gangway in open revolt against the Premier. Mr. Gladstone must now see that it is utterly impossible to go on working with the Radical dissenters. Twice during the week he has only been saved by an alliance with the Conservative party and the faithful support of the more moderate Liberals of the House. Although in this journal we are supposed to have no politics, we can't but feel, even as lookers-on, that it is time the gentlemen below the gangway received some severe check. To obliberate every Christain feature in the Universities would be a blow to religion and morality, sapping the church to its very foundations. The demands of the extreme Radicals of the House of Commons, if they mean anything at all, point to the occupation of our pulpits by laymen, and not only that, but by laymen free to preach and to teach whatever doctrines they please. Even the *Daily Telegraph* admits the injustice and absurdity of the proposition, and we hope Her Majesty's Government will be able to draw the line somewhere, and save the country from the avalanche of secularism which threatens it.

ACTIVE newspaper correspondents have favoured the English press during the week with a variety of information concerning the terms of peace. If there be any truth in these statements the Germans do not intend to make any great modifications in their original demands; but the truth is the terms of peace have not yet transpired. Bismarck and the French representatives were to have met on Tuesday, and a variety of circumstances indicate that Bismarck's propositions will be far more magnanimous than his enemies suppose. We sincerely hope, not only for the sake of France, but for the future well-being of Germany, that the victors will be as moderate in their demands as circumstances can permit. The extension of the armistice is another good augury for peace, and France seems to be thoroughly settling down to the conviction that war is at an end.

THE troubles of Her Majesty's Government are only beginning. Sir Robert Peel's speech on the "venturesome" foreign policy of ministers is to be followed up by more than the wayside reference which he made to the absence of Lord Lyons from Paris during the siege. In the House of Commons, on Tuesday evening, Lord Elcho gave notice that on the second reading of the "Army Regulations Bill" he should move a resolution to the effect that whilst imposing a permanent burden on the country it failed to establish our military system on a sound, economical, and enduring basis. Sir Robert Peel informed the House that on a future occasion he should bring the subject of Lord Lyons' absence from Paris during the siege formally before the House. On the same evening Mr. Trevelyan moved his resolutions on army reform, the main object of which was to "alter the tenure of the command in chief in such a manner as to enable the Secretary for War to avail himself freely of the best administrative talent and the most recent military experience from time to time existing in the British army." The resolutions were opposed on behalf of the Government by Captain Vivian and Mr. Cardwell; also by Lord E. Cecil, Lord Bury, Colonel North, Major Dickson, Mr. Osborne, and other members; and supported by Mr. Anderson and Sir P. O'Brien. On going to a division the house negatived the motion by 201 to 83.

EVERY week chronicles the formation of fresh school boards in country districts. The act is being earnestly adopted throughout the great centres of our population. We hope our friends in the country will follow the lead of the London Board in the adoption of physical training as one of the canons of the new schools. Some of our readers, more particularly in the Midland disiricts, do not seem quite to understand that the question of introducing the Bible as a school book is in their own hands. Any School Board may pass a resolution that the Bible shall be read in the schools under their jurisdiction, and we have no doubt that in a very large majority of cases, such a resolution will be adopted. The question has not yet been settled by the London Board, but we feel assured that they will at a very early day resolve to introduce the Bible into their schools. The Book of Books, apart from its religious teaching, is the best possible book as a literary and historical work that can be placed in the hands of the young. It should be read in every school freely and without comment, leaving the teaching and expounding of the word to the parents of the children and ministers of the various denominations.

THE Homœopathic system of medicine seems to be making rapid strides in Birmingham. In the report of the Homœopathic Hospital, published this week, appear the following figures:—"Although the report of 1869 showed that a larger amount of work had been done in that than in any preceding year, your medical officers have, by still further exertions, considerably increased the number of visits paid to patients at their own homes, and of prescriptions for out-patients, the former having been 2,374 as against 1,432 last year; and the latter 20,809 as against 18,622; whilst the number of in-patients, 132, has been but two less. The late Mr. Robert Martineau, who was one of the supporters of the Institution, left to it in his will a legacy of a hundred guineas.

THE WAR.

THERE seems to be no doubt now that the war is at an end. Despatches from Carlsruhe with respect to peace negotiations state that the Chancellor of the Germanic Empire, Count Bismarck, being desirous of ascertaining the views of South German statesmen in connection with the approaching negotiations for the conclusion of peace, has for that purpose addressed to members of the South German Governments letters of invitation to Versailles. From Baden Dr. Jolly, the President of the Ministry, is summoned to headquarters. The *Journal de Bordeaux* contains the following:—"We are able to state without any reserve that peace may be looked upon as signed. This information reaches us from Paris, through a person thoroughly acquainted with what is going on. The only question to be discussed is said to be the amount of the war indemnity. The territorial question is declared to be finally adjusted in a manner most favourable to the interests of France, and the national honour remains completely intact.

M. JULES FAVRE has had an interview with Count Bismarck to negotiate about an extension of the armistice. In consequence of the active warlike preparations of the French in the South, and the calling out of the recruits of the class of 1871, the negotiations only resulted in the prolongation of the armistice for five days. There has been, however, a further extension of the armistice.

THE Court of Appeal of Brussels has declared itself incompetent to decide the action brought by the French prisoners of war to obtain their liberation, on the ground that a civil jurisdiction cannot judge military operation. A telegram from Brussels states that Garibaldi has been elected at Nice in order that he might demand the return of Nice to Italy.

THE *Berlin Provincial Correspondence* says that the Emperor's Government will carefully avoid the fault committed in 1814, of imposing a Government upon France. No Government will be recognised which does not represent the wishes of the French people.

M. GUIZOT is mentioned, says a Brussels telegram, as likely to be French Ambassador in London. One corps of Faidherbe's army is at Dunkirk ready to embark. Seventeen vessels are in the port of Dunkirk formidably armed. The German envoy has presented to the King of the Belgians the letter of the Emperor William, notifying his acceptance of the Imperial dignity. The *Echo du Parlement* states positively that negotiations are taking place between the leaders of the Belgian Catholic party and Rome for the transfer of the Papal See to Belgium.

A FRESH contribution of 400,000 francs has been imposed by the Prussians on Alençon (Orne). The town having refused to pay, the Mayor and ten of the Town Councillors have been arrested as hostages.

THE French prisoners interned in Geneva, numbering in all 1,200, have been sent under escort by rail, to East Switzerland, in consequence of the difficulty of guarding them in Geneva.

THE account recently published in a London paper, and reproduced in many of the French journals, of the burning alive of a captain of Francs-Tireurs, at Pouillez, is officially stated to be utterly devoid of foundation.

THE *North German Gazette*, in an article upon the conditions of peace, says:—"Count Bismarck does not follow any policy peculiarly his own, but carries out the policy of the German people. This is so true that the Chancellor of the Empire would be to-morrow the most unpopular man in Germany if he did not bring the policy of the German people to such an issue as the people are entitled to expect after the sacrifices they have made and the fresh ones they are prepared to make."

A BERLIN telegram says the official returns show the total losses in January to have been 350,000 men and 800 guns. The loss of men is distributed as follows:—Of General Chanzy's army, 24,000; of General Royle's forces, 12,000; of the army of General Faidherbe, 11,000; and of the army under General Bourbaki, 30,000; 80,000 men are set down as having crossed into Switzerland; and the loss in Paris is estimated at 150,000. The total German losses in the month of January amount to 10,000.

LETTERS from Paris announce that steps are being taken to dissolve and thoroughly re-model the National Guard. This process is to be completed before the entry of the German troops into the French capital.

THE *Levant Herald* says the branch of the new Ottoman club at Stamboul, the Endjumeni Ulfet, which has formed itself into a literary society, is about to publish the "Letters of Lord Chesterfield" in Turkish. The members have also undertaken the compilation of a complete Turkish dictionary on the model of the dictionary of the French Academy.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.—One more measure recently adopted deserves mention here—a Bill to legalise a marriage with the sister or the daughter of the sister of a deceased wife. The former part of this enactment presents the singular anomaly of having been twice passed in the present session. The Bill legalising a marriage with a deceased wife's sister, which was passed and sent home last June, having been disallowed, our Parliament have, by a suspension of their standing orders, and by modifying the object of the Bill, repassed it with smaller opposition than it ever had before, and it now awaits transmission to England for her Majesty's pleasure. This is the sixth measure with this object that South Australia has passed, and as Downing-street may rest assured that we shall persevere until we succeed, it is surely scarcely worth while to persist in the course hitherto pursued—the more so that such marriages are not illegal in Victoria and New South Wales, and are certain ere long to be legalised by the Imperial Parliament itself.—*South Australian Advertiser*, Jan. 3.

PARLIAMENT.

Thursday, Feb. 16.—In the House of Lords the Duke of Somerset moved for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the present state of the Board of Admiralty. The motion was supported by Lord Melville, Earl Grey, and the Earl of Hardwicke; while the Earl of Camperdown and Lord Halifax contended that no case had been made out for the Committee. The motion, however, was agreed to.—In the House of Commons, Mr. Gladstone informed the House that, in order to give what aid they could in the negotiations for peace, her Majesty's Government would recognise without delay the new French Government immediately on its taking office. Immediately after the questions had been disposed of, Mr. Cardwell rose in a crowded House to propound the new scheme of the Government on army organisation; and after he had concluded, Sir John Pakington said it was impossible to discuss so large a scheme without some time for consideration; and the discussion was then postponed.—The dowry of the Princess Louise was again made a subject of discussion in the vote of £30,000, that the part of dowry which is to be paid down being moved by Mr. Gladstone. Mr. P. A. Taylor led the opposition, which he founded mainly on the fact that, as the Princess Louise had declared her intention to free herself from the trammels of Royalty, and to lead her individual life, in doing which she had earned the affections of the people, she had taken off the fetters that bound her, and there was, therefore, nothing to gild. Mr. Disraeli warmly supported the vote, but Sir Robert Peel declared it to be an impolitic match, and stated that there was great opposition to the dowry on the part of working men in Lancashire and Staffordshire. The House then went to a division, and carried the vote by 350 to 1, a result which elicited some cheers and more laughter.

Friday.—The Lords only sat for a short time, and the business transacted was unimportant.—In the House of Commons Lord Enfield informed Mr. Baillie Cochrane that no communication having been addressed to them on the subject of the proposed triumphal march of the Prussian army through Paris, her Majesty's Government had not thought fit to take any steps in the matter. He also stated that no official communication had been received relating to a reported treaty or understanding between Russia and Prussia; nor as to the Prussians having, on the non-payment of fines imposed by them on various districts since the Armistice was concluded, pillaged those districts. On the motion for going into Committee of Supply, several questions were raised. The first was that of Indian finance. On this subject Mr. Fawcett moved the appointment of a Select Committee of Inquiry, to include the general administration of the affairs of India; but, on its being intimated that Government would themselves propose a Committee, he withdrew his motion. Then came a debate on the French and German war, and which was commenced by Mr. Auberon Herbert, who moved a resolution affirming that it is the duty of her Majesty's Government to act in concert with other neutral Powers to obtain moderate terms of peace. Most of the speakers who followed complained bitterly of the policy of the Government as having humiliated the country before Europe. Sir Robert Peel strongly supported this view, and maintained that the irresolute policy of the Government had led to the obliteration of the influence of England in Europe.

Monday.—In the House of Lords the second reading of the Benefices Resignation Bill was moved by the Bishop of Winchester, and opposed by Lord Romilly, on the ground that it would tend rather to the injury than the benefit of the Church, by diminishing the independence of the clergy; but the Marquis of Salisbury, Lord Harrowby, Lord Cairns, and Lord Stanhope spoke in its favour, and the second reading was agreed to. In the House of Commons, Mr. Gladstone, answering Mr. Stacpoole, stated that the question as to whether there should be a royal residence in Ireland had been in the view of the Government, but he was not now in a condition to make any positive declaration on the subject. The Princess Louise's Annuity Bill passed its third reading without remark; after which the house went into Committee on the University Tests Bill, and agreed to its clauses without alteration, but not without a discussion on two amendments. Mr. W. E. Forster moved for leave to bring in a Bill providing the votes at Parliamentary and municipal elections shall be taken by ballot. Its principal provisions he stated were, to secure complete secrecy; to abolish scrutiny; to guard against the use of forged voting papers and against the voting papers being tampered with; to abolish nomination and declaration days; to make it unlawful to have committee rooms in public-houses, and to throw the expenses of the returning officers on the constituencies. The right hon. gentleman was followed by Mr. Leatham, who considered the Bill a decided improvement on that of last year; Mr. G. Bentinck, who expressed his belief that it would be a most unpopular measure; by Sir Dominie Corrigan, who made a humorous speech in its favour; by Mr. Beresford Hope, who approved of the abolition of nomination days, but was not in favour of secret voting; and by Sir Henry Hoare and Mr. Henry James, who criticised the details of the Bill. Leave was then given to bring it in, and soon afterwards the House adjourned.

Tuesday.—In the House of Lords two or three Bills, including that which provides for the dowry of the Princess Louise, were advanced a stage, and on the provocation of Lord Malmesbury, the Foreign Secretary explained the circumstances under which Lord Lyons left Paris. The most important information elicited by the inquiries addressed to Ministers in the House of Commons was that Sir J. Rose had declined to act upon the Anglo-American Commission for purely personal and private reasons; and that in leaving Paris in September last, Lord Lyons acted in accordance with the general instructions of the Government, although the Foreign Secretary had not in any way prescribed the day or hour of his departure. Despite an appeal from the leader of the Opposition, Mr. Forster adhered to his intention to move the second reading of the Ballot Bill on Monday next. The principal business of the evening was the discussion of Mr. Trevelyan's resolutions upon Army Administration, which were as follows:—"1. That in the opinion of this House no scheme for military reorganisation can be regarded as complete which does not alter the tenure of the Command in Chief in such a manner as to enable the Secretary of State for War to avail himself freely of the best administrative talent, and the most recent military experience from time to time existing in the British army. 2. That the consideration of the cost involved in the abolition of the purchase system urgently calls for the immediate removal of obsolete and antiquated sources of military expenditure." The resolutions were seconded by Mr. Anderson, and then Captain Vivian replied on the part of the Government. The gallant gentleman scarcely asked the House to negative the motion; indeed, he seemed to indicate that many of the questions raised by Mr. Trevelyan were under the consideration of the Government. Lord Eustace Cecil addressed himself in the main to matters detail, but in the result he appealed to the member for the Border Burghs to withdraw his motion; while Lord Bury had a good deal to say in defence of our existing military arrangements, and especially supported the tenure by which the Commander-in-Chief at present holds his office. Sir P. O'Brien asked whether there was a man in the House who would say that the Duke of Cambridge was the proper man to be Commander-in-Chief, and Mr. Bernal Osborne, avowing himself to be that man, declared that there was as much slavishness in abusing a Royal Duke as there might be courage in praising him, and besought the House, whatever reforms it might introduce into our military administration, not to remove the command of the army from the Horse Guards. Mr. Cardwell, strictly confining himself to the terms of the motion, maintained that the office of the Commander-in-Chief was a proper and necessary exception from the five years' rule which generally applied to staff appointments. The right hon. gentleman appealed to Mr. Trevelyan to withdraw his motion, but the member for the Border Burghs declaring, with patent reference to Mr. B. Osborne, that the way to get rid of abuses was not to make jokes about them every ten years and never divide the House, insisted upon counting heads. When the division was taken his motion was rejected by a majority of 118—201 to 83.

Wednesday.—The sitting of the House of Commons was almost entirely occupied with the discussion of the Merchant Shipping Survey Bill, the second reading of which was moved by Mr. Plimsoll in a speech of no less than an hour's duration. The hon. member for Derby commented with severity upon the bad condition in which ships are commonly sent to sea, and the too usual practice of overloading them; and while admitting that there are many honest shipowners, maintained that the dishonest or reckless ones are so numerous as to call for the interference of Parliament, by providing for the inspection of the condition and burden of all ships before they are sent to sea. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wheelhouse, who attributed the great loss of life on our northern coasts to the absence of such a security as this measure would provide. Mr. Eustace Smith and Mr. Rathbone asked the House to reject the Bill as unnecessary and injurious to honest trade, at the same time that it might easily be evaded by dishonest traders. Mr. Henley condemmed the measure as inopportune. Mr. A. Peel announced that if the Merchant Shipping Bill could not pass during the present session Mr. Fortescue would detach the clauses relating to the overloading of ships and ask the House to assent to them as a separate measure; and thereupon Mr Plimsoll at once withdrew his Bill. Some other orders were disposed of, and leave having been given to bring in two or three Bills, the House adjourned.

Barnum's New Show.—Mr. Barnum's wonderful menagerie will soon set forth on its career of triumph. It will comprise not only a circus but a menagerie, and not only a menagerie but a museum, and not only these but a troops of jugglers, gymnasts, and other experts of distinction, so that nothing ever seen of a peripatetic character will have begun to equal it. Mr. Barnum is taking his time for preparation; but the public will be the better and not the worse for that. We are told that his agents in France and Germany are engaged in collecting an immense number of curiosities from the various battle-fields to add to the splendour and variety of his travelling museum; a calèche, in which the Emperor Napoleon drove to Sedan, is said to be of the number.—*New York Times*, Feb, 2,

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Consumption is Curable.—A new and popular Treatise is just published, Fourth Edition, Revised and Enlarged, entitled ON CONSUMPTION OF THE LUNGS, explaining the Treatment and certain cure by a newly-discovered method, by S. Berry Niblett, M.D. May by obtained, post free, for seven stamps, from the Author, 10, Oxford-terrace, Hyde Park, London. [230

Advice to Mothers.—Are you broken in your rest by a sick child suffering with the pain of cutting teeth? Go at once to a chemist, and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. It will relieve the poor sufferer immediately: it is perfectly harmless: it produces natural quiet sleep, by relieving the child from pain, and the little cherub awakes "as bright as a button." It is very pleasant to take; it soothes the child, it softens the gums, allays all pain, relieves wind, regulates the bowels, and is the best known remedy for dysentery and diarrhœa, whether arising from teething or other causes. Sold by all medicine vendors at 1s. 1½d. der bottle. [694

Holloway's Pills.—In general debility, mental depression, and nervous irritability, there is no medicine which operates so like a charm as these famous Pills. They purify the blood, soothe, and strengthen the nerves and system, give tone to the stomach, elevate the spirits, and, in fact, render the patient sensible of a total and most delightful revolution in his whole system. They may be commended most unreservedly as the very best family medicine in existence. Though so powerfully efficacious, they are singularly mild in their operation, and may be given with implicit confidence to delicate women and young children. They contain not a grain of mercury, or other noxious substance, and cannot do harm. Delicate females and all persons of sedentary habits will find these Pills a blessing.

INCIDENTS OF THE WEEK.

The *Times* has authority to state that the marriage of her Royal Highness the Princess Louise will be celebrated at Windsor Castle on the 21st of March next, and that although the ceremony will be performed in St. George's chapel, it will be conducted in the same private manner as that of her Royal Highness the Princess Helena, in the private chapel of the Castle.

At Sheffield, 1,300 colliers, delegates in Wigan, have decided to continue the agitation for increase of wages.

Gold is said to have been discovered near Bangalore. It is reported to be easily gathered in no small quantity.

Sir Stafford Northcote sailed from Liverpool for New York on Saturday in the Cunard steamer Russia.

A correspondent informs the *Daily News* that "Craycombe House," a portion of the property which adjoins the hunting seat of the Duke d'Aumale in Worcestershire, is to let. A short time ago it was added to that estate, at great cost, that it might become a shooting-box for the Count de Paris.

It is stated in Paris, that the Crown Prince of Prussia is opposed to the entry of the Prussians into the city.

Mr. Edward S. Gordon, Q.C., M.P., has been appointed arbiter in regard to questions arising between the North British and Caledonian Railway Companies.

At the meeting of the Birmingham Town Council on Tuesday, the Estates and Buildings Committee reported that a large number of plans had been sent in by eminent architects for the new Assize Courts, judges lodgings, and corporate buildings which the Council propose to erect on lands purchased for the purpose at a cost of some £36,000. The time for receiving designs will expire on the 1st of March, and it is proposed to engage a consulting architect to advise the committee on the adaptability of the plans. It is doubtful whether the new buildings will be proceeded with for some time. The total cost to the town would be, it is stated, about £250,000.

A notice from the Post-office states that there will be considerable delay in the transmission of messages to Hull, Sunderland, Newcastle, and Scotland generally, in consequence of the heavy gale of Sunday.

A vacancy in the representation of West Aberdeenshire is said to be anticipated by the resignation of Mr. W. M'Combie. Colonel Farquharson, of Invercauld, has issued an address to the constituency.

The well-known Bishop of Orleans has addressed a letter to some of the most important German papers on the subject of the calumnies that have been circulated in Germany as to the conduct of the French people, and especially the inhabitants of Orleans, to the German wounded. The Bishop's letter is extremely temperate in its tone, and he refrains entirely from counter accusations.

It is stated that Mr. H. C. Wise, M.P. for South Warwickshire, is unable to discharge his Parliamentary duties through failing health. His retirement from the representation at an early period is considered probable.

It has been arranged that the next annual conference of the Liberation Society shall be held on the 2nd and 3rd of May.

Queen Maria Victoria, the reigning Queen of Spain, according to a telegram from Madrid, is seriously ill with miliary fever at Alissao. She has asked to receive the last sacraments. The excessive nervous temperament of her Majesty renders her case very serious.

The death is announced of Sir William Richard Carter Chaytor. The deceased, who was born in 1805, was the second baronet, and succeeded his father in 1847. From 1831 to 1834 he was member for the city of Durham. He is succeeded in the baronetcy by his son William, who was born in 1837.

The Bishop of Manchester, speaking at the annual *soiree* in connection with the Ragged School, Holland-street, London, on Monday evening, rejoiced that social questions were coming to the front, and that benevolent men of all classes in the city were turning their attention to see what they could do at their own doors instead of meddling with foreign politics, with which England has had too much to do in times past, but with which he hoped we should have less to do in times to come.

The *Manchester Examiner* is informed that a large and influential meeting of the representatives of the master cotton spinners and manufacturers of Lancashire and Cheshire was held on Monday, at the Clarence Hotel, Manchester, at which the following resolution was passed:—"That, in the opinion of this meeting, it is undesirable and impolitic to interfere with the hours of labour as fixed by the Factory Act."

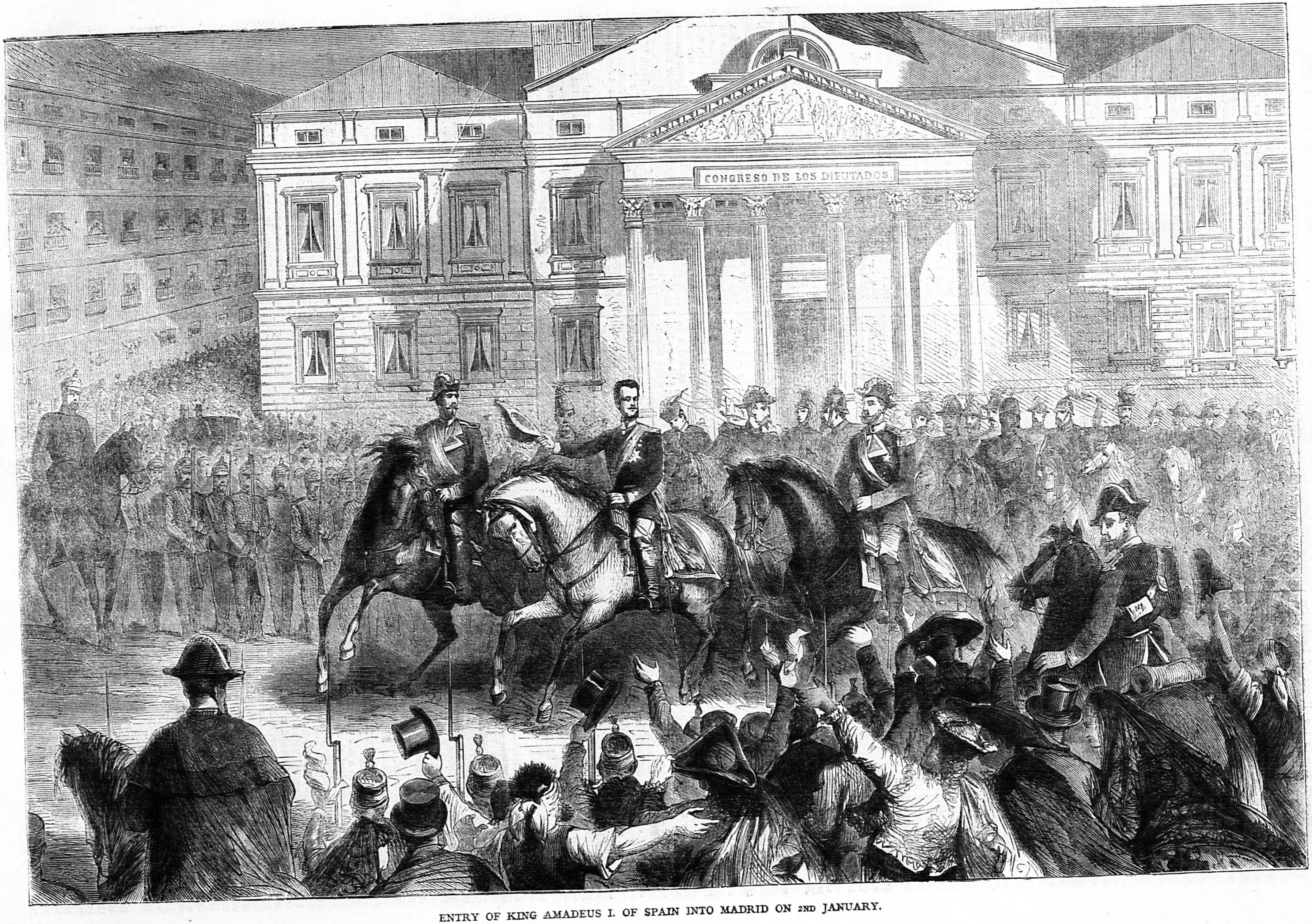
Lord Bagot has presented the Rev. T. L. Lane to the rectory of Leigh, near Cheadle.

The Bishop of St. Asaph has collated the Rev. J. E. Tompson to the vicarage of Moughtrey, Montgomeryshire; and the Rev. D. Jones to the vicarage of Dyserth, Flintshire.

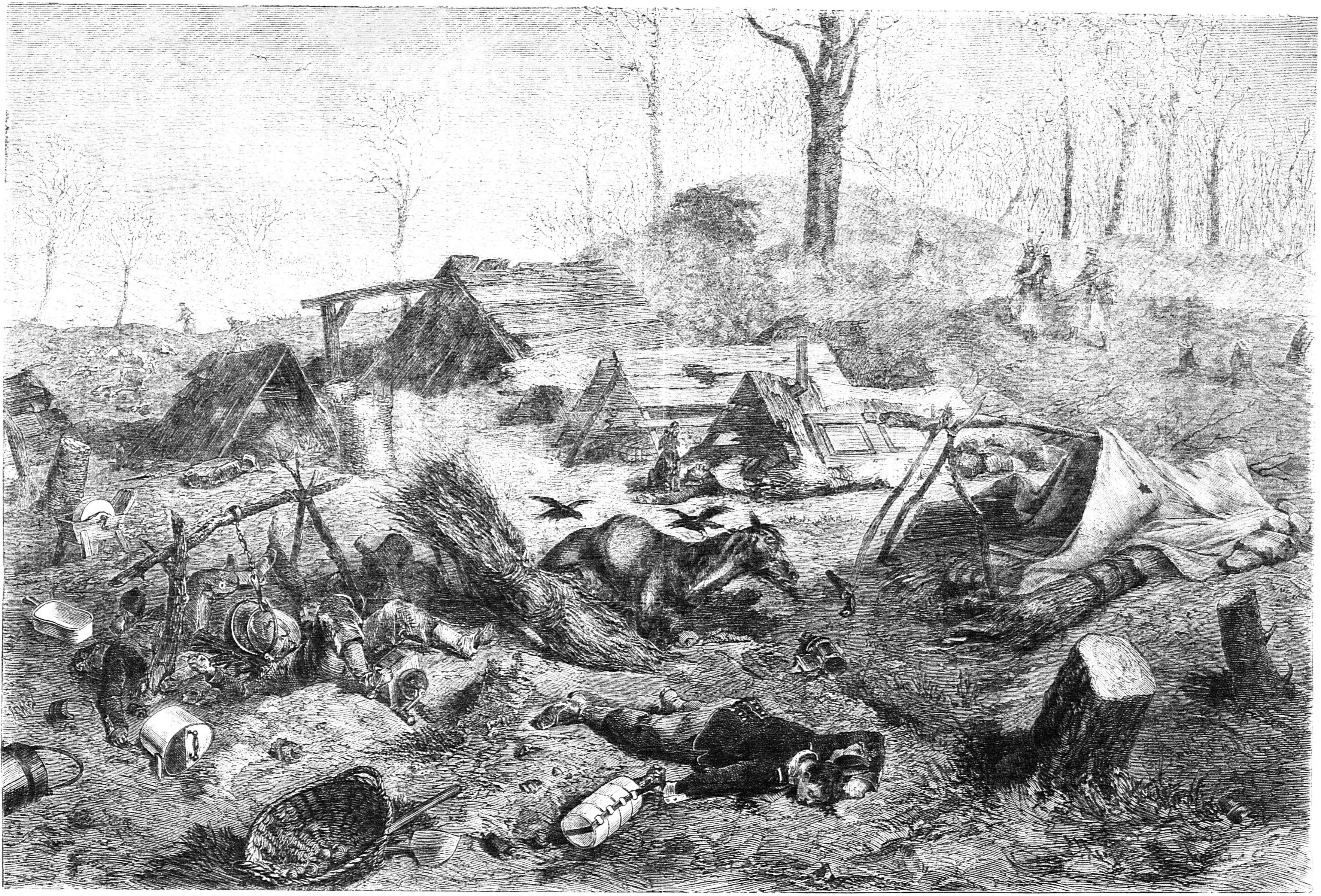
The Greek patriarch, Gregory, has resigned, on account of the Porte refusing him authority to convoke an œcumenical council to decide canonically upon the question of the Bulgarian Church.

The United States Congress has, according to a telegram from Washington, authorised President Grant to appoint Joint Boundary Commisioners to rectify the North-Western Boundary.

To Consumptives.—A **Grateful Father** is desirous of sending by mail, free of charge to all who wish it, a copy of the prescription by which his daughter was restored to perfect health from confirmed consumption, after having been given up by her physicians and despaired of by her father, a well-known physician who has now discontinued practice. Sent free. O. P. BROWN, 2, King-street, Covent-garden, London. [244


CONGRESO DE LOS DIPUTADOS

ENTRY OF KING AMADEUS I. OF SPAIN INTO MADRID ON 2ND JANUARY.



BEFORE PARIS: FRENCH CAMP FOLLOWERS DESERTED AT MONT AVRON.

THE ROMAN ROAD.

A BROAD grass road, o'erhung with many a tree,
Oaks that were standing centuries ago,
And fragrant limes, haunt of the honey bee,
Horse-chestnuts, bending plumy branches low.

In vagrant beauty, scented eglantine,
The dark tree boles enlaced and reaching, spread
Tendrils to distant boughs, that it might twine
A wreath about some wood king's stately head.

The gold-beaked blackbird, flying low, winged past,
To lose himself to view in leafy shade;
A homebound flock of rooks an instant cast
A shadow, where, fern hidden, undismayed,

Wild rabbits frisked among the wayside grass,
And over all far stretched the evening sky.
Calm, radiantly beautiful, the day did pass,
Gently she doffed her robes of crocus dye,

Amber and rose; then, weary, sank to meet
Her sister, eve, who clad in simple grey,
Stooped down to loose the sandals from her feet,
Before herself went on her destined way.

Then bee and bird were hushed; but, everywhere,
Strange music lingered; while, in heaven the light
Seemed loth to go, and luscious odours rare
Breathed forth their incense to the coming night.

O peerless day! sweet, unforgotten eve!
No fairer could your memory efface;
And, were it so, the thought itself would grieve,
If such bright hours left not eternal trace.

ST. GERMAIN.

THE A. B. C. OF ORNAMENTAL DESIGN.

GOTHIC.

WE this week give another specimen of the Gothic style. In Gothic ornament we have the geometrical and pointed element elaborated to its utmost. Its chief peculiarities are its combinations of details—at first the conventional and the geometrical prevailing, and afterwards these combined with the elaboration of natural objects in its decoration. This is at variance with the traditions of Byzantine, the ornament of which was purely conventional, whilst in the finest Gothic specimens we find elaborate imitations of the plants and flowers growing in the neighbourhood of the construction. Still the most characteristic feature of Gothic ornament is the wonderful elaboration of its geometric tracery—vesicas, trefoils, quatrefoils, cinquefoils, and an infinity of geometric varieties besides.

LOUIS QUATORZE.

The decline of the revived classical schools, and that of the Elizabethan, was succeeded towards the close of the seventeenth century by the rise of the Louis Quatorze, an essentially ornamental style, differing very materially in principle from nearly all that preceded it, its chief aim being, while colour or mere beauty of form in detail were discarded, to produce the required effect by a brilliant play of light and shade. The origin of this style may be traced to Italy, and its great medium was gilded stucco work, which seems for awhile to have wholly superseded decorative painting. This absence of colour seems to have led to a more striking characteristic—infinite play of light and shade. Accordingly symmetry in the forms and parts of a design was no longer necessary. In fact, numerous examples of Louis Quatorze exist, in which it is obvious that symmetry was systematically avoided. This feature was gradually more and more elaborated, till it became an essential in the Louis Quinze, and ultimately led to that debased, yet popular style, the Rococo, in which symmetry either in the balance of the whole, or in the detail of the parts, seems to have been considered quite out of place.

Dr. Zerffi, in his fourteenth lecture on the historical development of ornamental art, enumerated various examples of construction in the different styles he had mentioned in his previous lecture. Commencing with the oldest, or Proto-Doric style, he alluded to Stella and Hermes, in which the first attempts to construct Doric columns could be traced. The contractura in these columns was towards the base. There also existed facades of rock-hewn cellas or graves, of which those of Nouchai in Etruria and a rock-hewn grave at Nikoleia in Phrygia, were notable examples. In these constructions stiffness and austerity of form were the prominent characteristics. The columns were in some instances fluted, in others, smooth, and the shafts marked with one or three rings. The oldest of temples, that at Cardacchio in Corfu, which might almost with equal justice be assumed to have been merely the cover of a welt, was nearly proto-Doric in form. The pillars were slender and gently tapered, the capital strong, the echinus projecting, and the neck decorated. The distance between the columns was great. The frieze was without triglyphs, the pediment very high, and the fluting of the columns very flat, These were all the structures that could be traced prior to the seventh century B.C., when we had the Lax Archaic Doric style, of which the temples of Assos, in Asia Minor, and the Tavola dei Palladini, at Metapont, were examples. This style differed from the Proto-Doric, inasmuch as the distance between the columns was less, the columns themselves were shorter but more tapering, and the echinus boldly protruded. There were three incisions at the neck of the columns. In the older constructions in this style the entablature was more than half as high as the columns supporting it, and the columns had twenty flutes; in the later forms the entablature was a little less than half the column, which had sixteen flutes only. The kymatium, or cyma, was round, but lighter than the Proto-Doric. The temple of Demeter, at Pæstum, might well be considered as belonging to this period, were it not for the fact that the columns were so closely set. In the Stern Archiac Doric style (seventh and sixth centuries B.C.) were the temples of Selinus and Ægina Though, as far as the architecture of these two buildings was concerned, we might assume them to have belonged to the same period, they widely differed in their sculptural ornamentation. In the former temple the facial expression of the statues, the Asiatic fashion of the hair and beard, together with the conventional treatment of the drapery, led to the conclusion that it had been contemporary with the Monuments of the Harpies, In the latter, however, later influences could be traced. The special characteristics of this style were stiff outer columns, a high and strongly protruding abacus, which was one-sixth broader than the intercolumniation, a stiff and flat echinus, scotia, and rings below finishing the flutings of the shaft. The columns of the pronaos had sixteen Ionic flutings. The tapering was very considerable, being ·685 of the lower part, and the tapering in the interior columns was still greater. The marvellous temple at Ephesus (which the lecturer fully described in his former course of lectures) influenced the Greek artists, and stimulated them to greater exertions. The temples of Artemis at Syracuse, and that at Corinth, might be looked upon as attempts to rival that construction. Their dimensions were colossal, and though the old proportions were observed, the intercolumniation was as narrow as possible. The height of the entablatures was half that of the columns. The ruins of the temple of Corinth were generally accepted as being the most ancient remains of Doric architecture. The finished details and the treble incisions under the capital would, however, have justified archæologists in placing this building in the period in which the temple of Ægina was constructed. At the same time, these two temples presented examples of the transition to the Pure Doric style (fifth century B.C.) As examples of this style we had thirteen temples—viz., those of Zeus at Selinus; of Heracles at Agrigentum; of Zeus at Agrigentum; of Poseidon at Pæstum; of Athene at Syracuse; of Juno Lacinia, at Agrigentum; of Concordia at Agrigentum; the temple at Segesta; the southern temple on the western hill at Selinus; the southern temple on the eastern hill at Selinus; the temple on the Island of Ægina; that of Zeus at Olympia; and the temple at Bassæ. Having mentioned the chief characteristics of these buildings, the lecturer passed on to the Attic-Doric or Periclean style (fifth century B.C.). He said that in this style we found the spiritualisation of Doric power and typical regulation united with Ionic grace and individual expression. The old Doric might be distinguished as the sandstone or limestone style, and the Attic-Doric as the marble style. The treatment of the forms differed with the material. Those in marble were more elegant, the columns lighter, and the ornamentation more refined and profuse. Amongst the temples in this style were those of Theseus at Rhamnos, the Parthenon, &c. Even prior to the period of the Macedonian Doric style (four centuries B.C.), the Doric style ceased to be employed exclusively for temples, and was also used for profane buildings. At first the Ionic and subsequently the Corinthian order became more prevalent, in accordance with the increased refinement of the people.

The Ionic order was slender and beautiful, and was undoubtedly perfected by Greek taste. Dr. Zerffi here entered in detail into the characteristics of the three styles into which he had divided the Ionic order; and having dwelt at some length on the Corinthian order and its styles, he proceeded to the consideration of the ceramic art of the Greeks. He said that in speaking of pre-historic pottery in former lectures, he had referred to the principal styles. After form, strength and durability of material was the most important desideratum. This might be attained in three ways: (1) by simply drying the pottery in the open air, or in the sun; (2) by exposing it to a gentle heat; and (3) by exposing it to a more intense heat. The method of glazing pottery, he observed, appeared to have been altogether unknown to the Greeks, at any rate, it was not used by them, and hence the earthern vessels of ancient times were not entirely impervious to water. On the other hand, there were advantages connected with these porous vessels which had been subjected to a gentle heat only, as they resisted sudden changes of temperature better, and did not break so easily as those which had been more thoroughly baked. In making pottery which would be subjected to the action of intense heat, an entirely different treatment was required. The plastic forms should be well chosen, and such as might suffer through baking should be avoided. Metal or bronze motives, Telamons, &c., should not be imitated in ceramic works, for in such cases the material would be employed for a purpose for which it was not at all adapted. The style of the ceramic artist should be dependent on the three principal properties of the material used, viz., plasticity, homogeneity, and capacity for hardening, Ceramic art, said the lecturer, had developed itself to a certain extent in analogy with the geological formation of the earth, but in an inverted ratio, The oldest pottery pre-historic was coarse, and its material was provided by the latest formation of the earth, *i.e.*, the soil itself, Chinese ceramic pottery, however, formed an exception to this, as the Chinese people had used kaolin, which was of the primary formation. The productions of the mediæval potters, such as faience, were made of materials obtained from the secondary formation of the earth's crust; and for the last three centuries we had made our ceramic works of materials found in the oldest formation. The oldest specimens of pottery much resembled each other, and it was difficult to distinguish the productions of Kelt, Teuton, Scandinavian, Greek, and Italian, from one another. In such productions as assumed the trochoid form, there was evident a plastic tendency to strengthen the wave-like forms by additional ornamentation. This ornamentation consisted in geometrical figures, knobs, astragals, and guilloches. The Greeks highly improved upon this rude pottery. Their style and execution presented the greatest contrast to the productions of other nations. The lines were more defined, and the symmetry more perfect. The ceramic art of the Greeks flourished most successfully at Samos, and in other islands of the Archipelago. Its most striking characteristic was at that time that it ignored the use of the wheel. In other countries, where the wheel had been used from time immemorial, we should find that it had a detrimental rather than an improving effect. In conclusion, Dr. Zerffi said he divided Greek pottery into two classes—the oligochromatic (from ολιγος, small, and χρωμα, colour), and the pulychromatic. The first of these he subdivided into two sections:—(1.), the Archaic; and (2), the Hellenic. He also remarked on the fact that the greatest Grecian sculptors had modelled designs for ceramic works, and had even practised the art themselves.

THE EARL OF DERBY ON OUR NATIONAL DEFENCES.—In proposing the toast of the "Army and Navy," at the festival of the Hospital for Sick Children on Saturday evening, Lord Derby said he had to ask them to pay a tribute of respect to the two great defensive services of this country, together with what he would call the auxiliary branches of the military service, namely, the militia and volunteers. These services could not complain during the last few months, that they had not attracted a fair share of notice. They might complain that they had been subjected to a great deal of criticism, some of it unreasonable and foolish, but that was to be expected in a free country, and he thought it was in public something as in private life. One would even rather be unjustly abused than not noticed at all. It was certain now, however, that we were not going to starve our services. We might spend our money wisely or unwisely, for money would not do everything; brains to use it were much needed to render the services efficient. He had not been inclined, during the last few months, to think that our national danger was so great as some people considered, but he did think periodical panics were not only ridiculous but dangerous; indeed, a great deal of money would not be badly spent if it had the effect of ending such panics once for all. He hoped that when we had put the services into a proper state of efficiency, we should not be so proud of them as to want to put them to a trial without absolute necessity. If that necessity arose, he had no doubt that on land or on sea, with new weapons as with the old ones, our men would do their duty as they had always done in times past.

KARL BLIND ON MILITARY REFORM IN ENGLAND.—In a letter on Military Reform in England, which M. Karl Blind has addressed to the *Neue Freie Presse*, he remarks, in referring to the much spoken of pamphlet, "The Fight in Dame Europa's School":—"England has not been, and is not, in a position to enter into this gigantic war. The people of this country, whether of Germanic or Celtic descent, are of the bravest in the world. A hundred thousand Englishmen would not have allowed themselves at Sedan simply to be made captives. Five hundred thousand of them would not have surrendered in the way the Paris garrison did; for long before hunger would have forced them to do so, they would have attempted sorties of a more terrible kind than were made by Trochu's troops. But what would the greatest bravery avail if it had to struggle, in insignificant numbers, against masses of warriors whose valour surely equals that of the English?" In the course of his letter, Mr. Karl Blind speaks of the Swiss Militia system, which he thinks England would do well to adopt, with such modifications as the conditions of her empire render unavoidable.

MARAVILLA COCOA FOR BREAKFAST.—The *Globe* says—Taylor Brothers Maravilla Cocoa has achieved a thorough success, and supersedes every other cocoa in the market. Entire solubility, delicate aroma, and all the concentration of the purest elements of nutrition, distinguish the Maravilla Cocoa above all others. For homœopaths and invalids we could not recommend a more agreeable or valuable beverage.—Sold in packets only, by all grocers. Sole proprietors, Taylor Brothers, London. [272

FOR TABLE DELICACIES, DESSERTS, &c., "Sea Moss Farine" is the most healthful, economical, convenient, and delicious food in the world. A Shilling Packet will produce *Sixteen Quarts* of Blanc Mange, Custard Pudding, Charlotte Russe, Floating Island, &c. Sea Moss Farine is in a far more concentrated form than Corn Flours, Maizena, and other farinaceous or gelatinous articles. Its cheapness, wholesomeness, and simplicity of preparation will commend it to all Hotels, Families, and Restaurants. Sold by all Chemists and Grocers, Sea Moss Farine Co., 266, High Holborn, London. [31

IMPORTANT.—14, Carr's-lane, Birmingham. Established 1861, for the sale of Pure Tea. Connoisseurs pronounce the Tea sold at this Warehouse superior to any that can be obtained elsewhere. Twenty-five per cent. saved in value. [24

PURE WATER.—ALFRED BIRD, Experimental Chemist, begs to announce that he has perfected his new CARBON FILTER, price 7s. 6d. each, which he guarantees shall deliver 60 gallons of the purest water daily.—To be seen in action at 69, Worcester-street, Birmingham. [930

PATENT TEETH ON SOFT GUMS.—Mr. WILLIAM J. WATSON, Surgeon Dentist, 16, Newhall-street, Birmingham, begs to inform the inhabitants of the Midland Counties, that he is the SOLE INVENTOR and DISCOVERER of a new system of fixing PATENT TEETH on SOFT GUMS, and he being the actual Maker is enabled to supply Teeth *at about one-third the usual charges.* Single Teeth from 3s. 6d. each; Sets from £2 10s., including all charges. Perfectly fitted at one visit. Attendance daily from nine a.m. till eight p.m. Consultation free. [164

FLORILINE!!—For the Teeth and Breath.—A few drops of the FRAGRANT FLORILINE on a wet tooth brush produces a delightful foam, which cleanses the Teeth from all impurities, strengthens and hardens the gums, prevents tartar, and arrests the progress of decay. It gives to the Teeth a peculiar and beautiful whiteness, and imparts a delightful fragrance to the breath. It removes all unpleasant odour arising from decayed Teeth, a disordered stomach, or tobacco smoke. The Fragrant Floriline is purely vegetable, and equally adapted to old and young. It is the greatest Toilet discovery of the age. Sold in elegant cases, complete, at 2s. 6d., by all Chemists and Perfumers,—H. C. GALLUP, Proprietor, 493, Oxford-street, London. [156

THE HAIR.—THE PLAIN TRUTH.—Mrs. Allen's World's Hair Restorer will positively restore the natural original colour in every case of greyness, no matter from what cause it arises, and the hair is stimulated to natural growth. The "Zylobalsamum," as a hair-dressing for young and old, is the best article that can be used; it imparts a gloss and vigorous appearance to the hair very beautiful to see. The Restorer, 6s.; the Zylobalsamum, 3s.; in large bottles only.—Depot, 266, High Holborn, London. Sold by all Chemists and Perfumers. [189

FACEACHE, TOOTHACHE, TIC DOLOREUX.—ADAM SMITH'S NEURALGINE effects a certain cure.—Depôt, 39, Ann-street. Sold by all Chemists; and J. Yardley, of Bloxwich. [107

BIRMINGHAM AND THE MIDLANDS.

A TOWN whose municipal representatives can coolly talk of spending £200,000 in corporate and official buildings, deserves to be the metropolis, not simply of a county but of a division of the country. In this position stands Birmingham, the capital of the Midlands. So great is the town that those who know it well, or are familiar with its fame, are apt to forget in what county it stands. "Warwickshire" is, indeed, a small word by the side of "Birmingham." The great public buildings which it is proposed to erect in the town, are corporate offices, assize courts, and judges' lodgings. The services of the latter structures are not as yet needed. It is a curious sign of the antiquity of our institutions, and of the almost unalterable conditions under which they exist, that Birmingham has never yet been an assize town. The judges go down to the old and pretty and quiet little town of Warwick twice a year to deliver the county and borough gaols, as they have done for many hundreds of years, but this state of things will in the process of time come to an end. Her Majesty's Commissioneers have determined to make alterations in the circuits of the judges and to form assize districts, appointing fewer places in which to hold courts, and Birmingham will in all probability be an assize centre for a considerable district of the Midlands. Hence the Birmingham Town Council are bestirring themselves on the subject of providing proper assize courts and judges' lodgings but the matter has not come upon them unawares. They have long been preparing for the demand which will shortly be made upon them. To this let Mr. Alderman Hawkes, one of the speakers at a Council meeting this week, bear testimony. "It was now," said the worthy alderman, "twenty years since the Town Council, foreseeing the wants of the borough, had placed in the Birmingham Improvement Act powers for the Council to purchase the land and buildings forming that great property standing opposite the Town Hall, in Congreve-street, Ann-street, and Edmund-street, with the desire that the property should ultimately be devoted to making larger and more convenient approaches to the Town Hall, and the erection of such corporate buildings and law courts as the borough would stand in need of. He believed that there were few men in the Council now that were in the Council then, who would have conjectured that twenty years would go by after Parliament acceded to that recommendation, and not one stone of these buildings be laid. The Council, wisely he thought, declined to go to the expense of purchasing the reversions of certain leaseholds which would expire in 14 or 15 years. These were allowed to run out, which they did in the year 1865, so that the Council got possession of the property, so far as these leases were concerned, without paying one penny of compensation, and they only purchased a lease which had to run 70 or 80 years at a cost of £6,000, receiving, however, at the same time, a very large amount of back rent. Now, although twenty years had elapsed since the first steps had been taken in that matter, the Council had never, in all of the many votes taken in reference to the property, varied from the original intention." Strangers acquainted with the "village"—and who is there that ever travels by railway who has not seen it?—will be able to form some idea of the great street improvement that will be made in the carrying out of this grand undertaking. A committee entrusted with the preliminary business advertised many months ago for plans, offering three premiums of £200, £100, and £50, for the three best designs, and upwards of 250 architects had applied for a copy of the conditions. The last day for sending in plans is the 1st of March, now drawing very near, and Alderman Hawkes called the attention of the Council to the necessity of providing for the safe custody of the designs, seeing that they would represent professional labour to the value of from twenty-five to thirty thousand pounds. These are large figures, and the whole business is on a stupendous scale for the provinces. The Council, however, were almost unanimous on the question of the course to be adopted, and a consulting architect is to be called in to assist the Estates and Building Committee in reporting to the Council upon the designs, which will afterwards be exhibited for public inspection. It will be the beginning of a new chapter in the history of Birmingham when Her Majesty's Judges for the first time break the Commission of Assize in the new courts which are as yet in embryo.

THE Birmingham Labour Representation League were tripped up by the House of Commons in the matter of the Princess Louise's dowry. They had organised a meeting to protest, and before they met the deed was done, Mr. Gladstone had moved too fast, and all that was left for them to do was to protest after the event, which they did quite lustily at the Birmingham Town Hall on Monday night. "It was true," said the chairman, "they were a day after the fair, but the blame for that must rest with those who had pressed this matter through Parliament with such indecent haste rather than with the promoters of that meeting." The blame, it may be imagined, will not press very heavily on the shoulders of those who pressed the matter on with such "indecent haste." On the records of the Labour Representation League in Birmingham stands now this resolution of condemnation on the conduct of Mr. Gladstone's government:—"That, in the opinion of this meeting, the unseemly haste of the Government in urging forward a measure for giving a dowry and an annuity to the Princess on her forthcoming marriage, and the slavish submission manifested by the first household suffrage Parliament in assenting with such readiness to the proposal, in the face of the numerous protests made by the people in all parts of the country, is a proof that the present House of Commons does not on this question represent the will of the nation; and, believing that previous Parliaments have, with a prodigal liberality, amply provided for the reigning family, we therefore indignantly denounce all dowries to princesses in the future as a wanton and reckless squandering of public money upon families whose ever increasing demands on the nation's purse cannot be justified by any services they have ever rendered to the state." Mr. Bill, who had the honour of proposing this motion, harbouring apparently some slight suspicion that its language was not altogether tame or temporising, followed it up with an appeal to the meeting. He wanted to know whether the resolution he had just read was "one atom too strong," and "whether it was justified by the circumstances of the case," and the meeting reassured him on both those points. There was a good deal of freshness in the speeches which followed, a freshness of treatment as well as of argument. Here is an example: "Mr. Stephens, on rising to speak, produced from his pocket a penny-piece, which he held up to the audience. He said that 'this girl' was about to be dowried to the amount of £19 a day. To give that £19 a day he and thousands like himself would be obliged to go without his breakfast to-morrow." Then Mr. Stephens availed himself of the opportunity of having a cut at Mr. Dawson for his not at all extravagant protest against the course adopted by those agitators at the recent political meeting. "When Mr. George Dawson," he said, "spoke on the dowry not being a penny tax on the working classes, it showed that he was one of those who would keep up the salaries of great persons, in order that they might keep up their own incomes." That is rather a long drawn inference, but we must not ask the gentlemen of the Labour Representation League, we suppose, to give a slavish adhesion to the forms of Aristotle's syllogism. Mr. Dawson, at the meeting in question, had observed that for this part he would not have chosen this particular marriage dowry against which to make a stand, as it were to spite a pretty girl, in recollection whereof, at the meeting on Monday Mr. Adams observed that "he would give way to no man in his love for a pretty girl, but if one pretty girl was to have £30,000 let all the pretty girls have £30,000, and he would guarantee to find a hundred thousand Marquises of Lorne to take them up." Here is another specimen of Mr. Adams's unadorned: "Mr. Stephens had showed them a penny, but he had not read to them the *Dei Gratia* inscription upon it. That Divine grace was a very expensive sort of matter, and he thought it rank blasphemy to speak of the Divine grace which took the penny out of the poor man's pocket, to put into the pockets of rich idlers." After this came the sterner part of the duty of the meeting. The members for Birmingham had failed to vote against the dowry and incurred the following penalty: "That this meeting desires to record its disapproval of the conduct of Messrs. Dixon and Muntz on the subject of the proposed dowry, and calls upon the working men of this large constituency to distinguish between the true and false friends of economy; and at the next election, by returning working men representatives, obtain a Government at once powerful, efficient, and economical." Should the state of Mr. John Bright's health, unhappily, not permit him at the next election again to offer himself as the representative of this constituency, there will be, we suppose three vacancies, and the following resolution contains the names of three gentlemen, who would have an irrefragible claim upon the Labour Representation League: "That the thanks of this meeting be given to Mr. P. Taylor, Sir Charles Dilke, and Mr. Fawcett, for the noble and manly spirit they manifested in opposing the grant, and assures them of their hearty appreciation of the patriotic course they adopted in the face of the unseemly jeers and ungentlemanly conduct of their 350 Parliamentary compatriots." "The three gentlemen named," said Mr. Collett, "were the only friends the working men had in the House that night. Royalty was a luxury which the working classes of this country could not afford to have or to pay for." Having passed these resolutions and declared Mr. Gladstone to be a traitor, the meeting felt it had done its duty, albeit some hours too late, in the matter of the dowry.

LEAMINGTON finds it hard to bear with what is known as the "A.B.C. process" of sewage precipitation. There is an odour in the air and a foulness in the effluent water. It is rather disheartening that just as Dr. Spencer Cobbold is demonstrating before the Medical Officers of Health in London the danger of propagating parasitic diseases by the practice of sewage irrigation, the far-famed "A.B.C." system should find itself in straits. The Leamington Local Board of Health have resolved, however, to give the enterprising company another chance, the company promising to alter their process so as to prevent the nuisance in future. In that same agreeable town another subject of controversy has occasioned a good deal of excitement and some angry feeling. It was here that Mrs. Tarpey was taken into custody on the charge of being associated with her husband in the recent remarkable jewel robbery, and the Leamington Chief of Police, Mr. Superintendent Lund, has been accused, in certain newspapers, and by counsel on the examination in London, of having so acted, through jealousy of the London police, as to assist in allowing Tarpey to escape. The whole matter has been inquired into by the Leamington Local Board of Health, and Mr. Lund appears to have given an entirely satisfactory explanation of his part in the proceedings, upon which the Board resolved that "The criticism passed on Mr. Lund was entirely unjust and uncalled-for." Charges of provincial jealousy are easily made, and sometimes difficult to refute. Fortunately for Mr. Lund he has been able in this case entirely to exonerate himself.

OF the 668 candidates at the recent Cambridge Middle Class Examination for girls, the Birmingham centre supplied 55 entries. Of these one was absent. 21 juniors and 15 seniors passed the examination successfully, and are entitled to receive certificates in April.

BIRTH.

On the 19th, at 82, Bloomsbury, Birmingham, the wife of Mr. Thomas H. Aston, of a son.

SONG OF THE WINTER.

WHEN autumn lay on her bed of death
The cold winds gave me birth,
And my earliest song was a requiem sad
Sung as she left the earth.
The clouds wept many a sorrowful tear,
And never a sunbeam shone,
For the glory and warmth of the dear old year
With the autumn days had gone.

The spring had given the earth fair flowers,
And the summer genial heat,
While autumn had coloured the growing grain
For the harvest of golden wheat,
Then I came with my dark and gloomy hours,
And my bitter biting cold,
Till the world looked weary and tired of life
As the passing year grew old.

Then I cried, "Though the world it love me not,
Yet still I will make it bright,"
And I loaded each chilly blast that blew
With snowflakes pure and white.
They scattered them over the earth's dark face
With a gentle noiseless hand,
Not spring, nor summer, nor autumn sun
Had shone on a fairer land.

Then a golden gleam from among the grey
Fell glittering on the snow,
And the sun with its welcome light once more
Shone forth on the earth below.
The world looked brighter and far more fair
Than for many a bygone day,
Till a summons came from among the stars,
And the old world passed away.

E. R. E.

GOSSIP.

MR. CARL ROSSA has signed an engagement with Mdme. Vanzini for a six months' season of English opera in the United States next autumn.

MR. TOM TAYLOR'S new historical play "Joan of Arc," will be produced at the Queen's in a week.

JOHANN STRAUSS will shortly bring out a new comic opera entitled "Vierzig Rauber, or the Forty Thieves."

THE *Australasian* is publishing Disraeli's "Lothair" in instalments, as a sort of *feuilleton*.

THE Rev. H. Solly has ceased to take part in the editorship of the *Beehive*.

AMONG the many curious and interesting works of art to be included in the approaching International Exhibition at South Kensington is a cast of one of the gateways of the great Buddhist Temple at Sanchi, in Central India. The *Echo* says it is of vast size, reaching from the floor to the ceiling of one of the principal Exhibition galleries, and is covered with designs in relief representing all sorts of religious ceremonials, and rites peculiar to Buddhism. It may be imagined at what cost of labour this most interesting cast was obtained from the mere mention of the fact that the machinery, tools, plaster, &c., which had to be conveyed from Jubbulpore or Sanchi, a distance of 180 miles, weighed no less than twenty-eight tons.

THE *School Board Chronicle* observes that it is remarkable that of the poets of the 19th century two, and two only, John Keble and Alfred Tennyson, have had the honour of a "Concordance" to their works being published. There is a Concordance to Shakespeare, and also to Milton; but why have we none to Pope, that most universally quoted of all the poets of the 18th century?

AMONG the most recent deaths at Bordeaux is that of M. Ponson du Terrail, the sensational novelist.

MR. BATEMAN, the father of Miss Bateman, will be the lessee of the Lyceum Theatre for five years from September next.

THE *Athenæum* gives a curious and painful account of the fate of M. Regnault, the eminent French artist. He was shot in the face, and so disfigured, that those who first found him were not sure of his identity; and, unable to carry away the body, they cut off the number on his coat and took it to his family, who recognised it as his. When the search was renewed the body could nowhere be found, although the Prussians gave their aid. In the public funeral another corpse was substituted for that of the great painter.

H.H. the Prince Mustapha Fazyl Pasha, of Egypt, has presented the new Turkish Literary Society at Constantinople with two thousand volumes from his own library.

"LA ROMA DEL POPOLO" is the title of a new weekly periodical which has been established in Rome by Signor Guiseppe Mazzini.

MISS NELLY POWER is suffering from scarlet fever.

THE Savage Club is to be reconstructed, with Mr. Andrew Halliday as president.

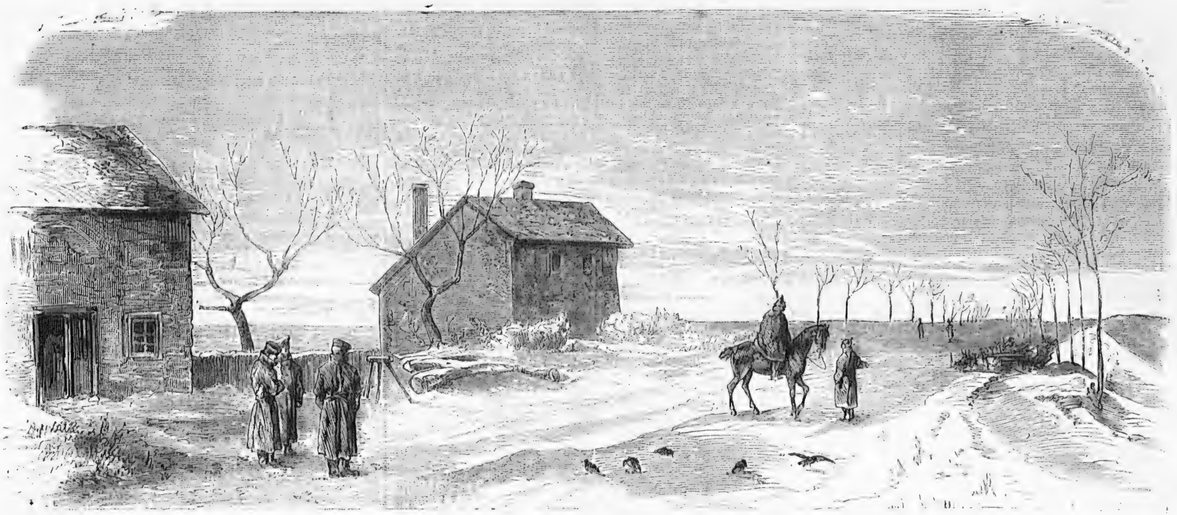
MR. H. J. BYRON is said to be writing a new burlesque for the Vaudeville.

A COMIC drama by Mr. Byron is in rehearsal at the Gaiety.

"CASTE" will take the place of "Ours" at the Prince of Wales Theatre.

THE author of "Festus" has written a poem called "Life Recluse" for the *Gentleman's Magazine*.

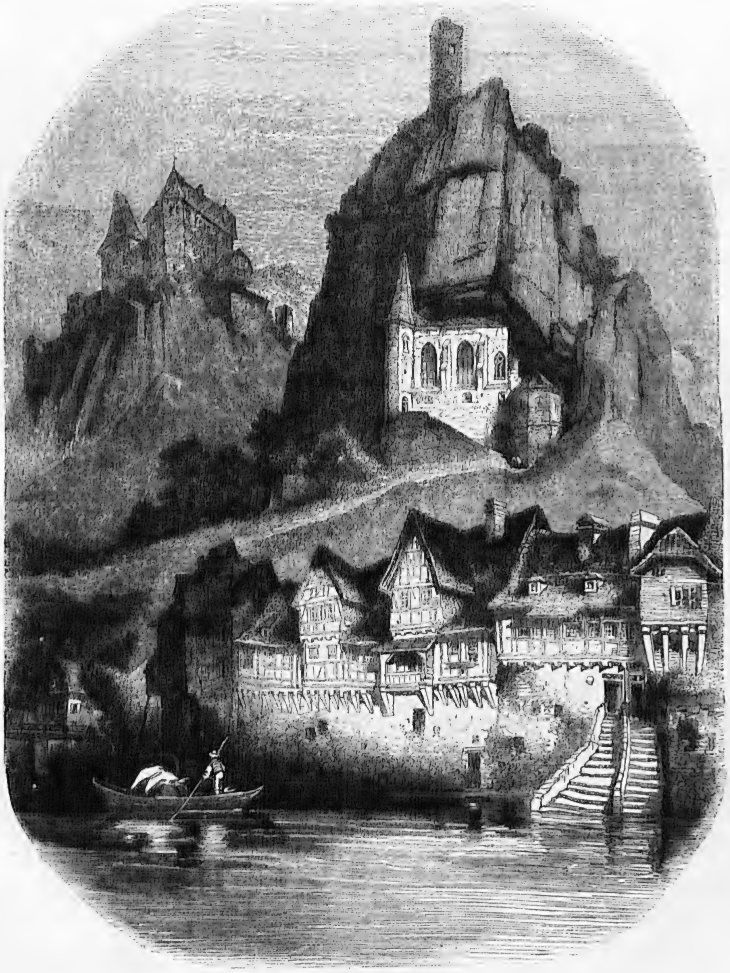
"I had been for 15 years subject to the gout, and never through that long period free from it a fortnight, till by the advice of a friend, who had been cured of it by Perry Davis's Pain Killer, I tried it, and got immediate relief.—THOS. NICHOLAS, Upper Holloway, May 16, 1867.—To Perry Davis & Son, London.



OUTERMOST BADEN ADVANCE POST AT PERRIGNY IN NOVEMBER.

OBERSTEIN.

OBERSTEIN is a small town of the north-west of Germany, and one of the dirtiest places it is possible to conceive. It is a picturesque little spot, however, and is beautifully situated on the river Nahe, shut in by high and romantic cliffs, chiefly of porphyry or amygdaloid, abounding in agates and crystals. The agate quarries are much less productive than formerly, and their exhaustion has given rise to the importation of other half precious stones, of finest quality from the East Indies and Brazil. These come to Oberstein in the rough and are here cut and polished. A considerable number of the population are occupied by this business. The stones are ground and polished by means of grinding stones of red sandstone, worked by water wheels in numerous small mills scattered along the neighbouring stream. Close to Oberstein are two fine precipitous rocks. On the summit of each are remains of an ancient castle—one still inhabited by peasants, the other quite a ruin. Immediately under the latter, in the face of the precipice, about a third of its height above the valley, a large cavity has been hollowed out, in which the ancient Lutheran church may be said to be embedded. It is approached by stairs cut in the rock. The living rock forms the roof and one side of the building; the other side is built up with a wall of masonry, in which are two large windows to light the interior. A spring of water gushes out of the floor. The mineralogist will find this locality very interesting, as, in addition to very fine and large agates, the porphyry rocks here furnish many other rare minerals and crystals—as chabasite, harmotome, &c. Oberstein belongs to the distant duchy of Oldenburg. The territory on the opposite side of the river formerly belonged to Saxe Coburg, but has been sold to Prussia.



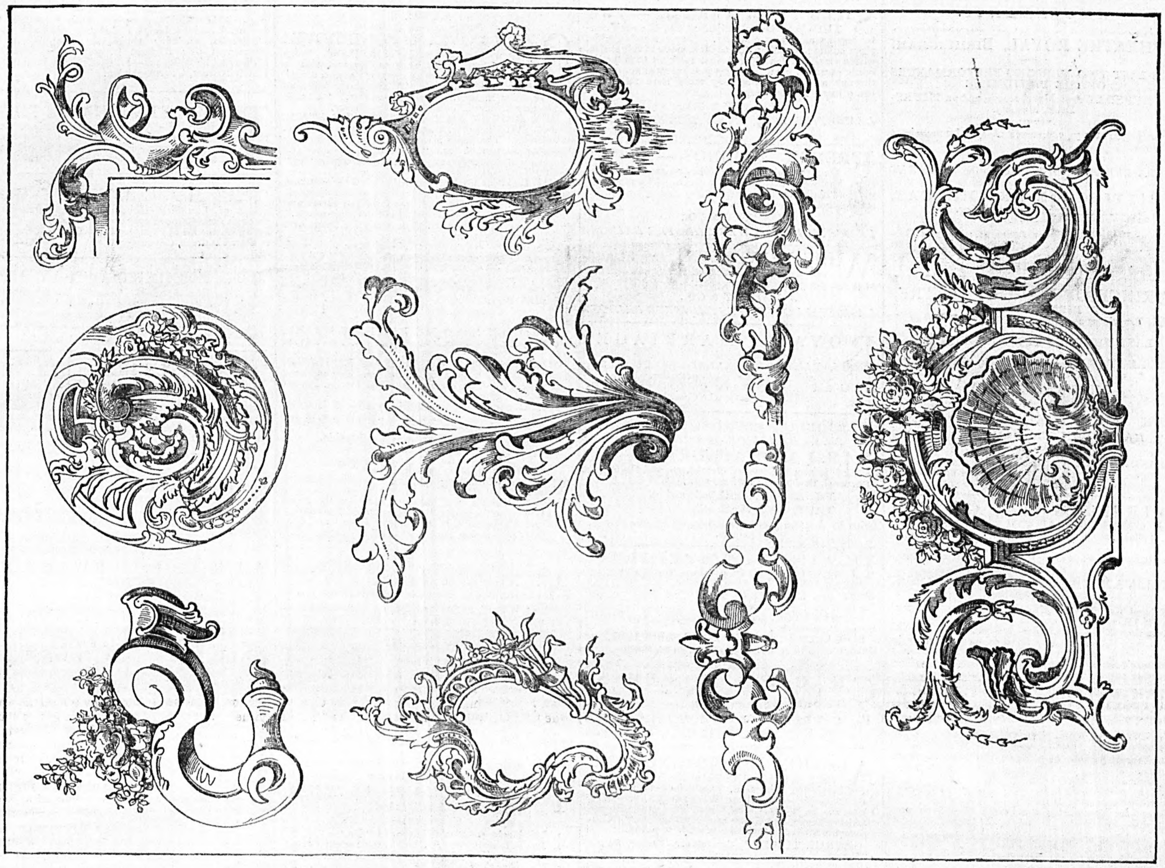
OBERSTEIN.

A JERSEY FISH STORY.—The last fish story comes from New Jersey. Lately, in the interior of that State, a mild-looking countryman entered a railway car, bearing a bundle tied up in a handkerchief, which he placed under the seat at the end of the car. After travelling along for about half an hour, a lady sitting in front of the countryman was observed to move uneasily in her seat, and to cast savage glances at a seemingly respectable man sitting by her side. In a few minutes afterwards another lady, still further to the front, "became uneasy," and at last, rising in her seat, requested some gentleman in the car would protect her from an elderly-looking gentleman by her side, and whom she stated had insulted her. A dozen persons offered their assistance, and before the accused could speak in his own defence his hat was jammed over his eyes and he was dragged to the rear of the car. While there, and carrying on with the avengers a war of words as to what the indignity meant, still another lady rose, also seated further up the car, and accused a gentleman sitting behind her with improper conduct. A rush was made for the insulter number two, but that gentleman vigorously defended himself with a large walking-stick he happened to have (and which, by-the-by, was one cause of the last troubles, his accuser stating that he had indecorously been rapping her ankles under the seat with the same), and, while the struggle to get at him was still in progress, somebody in the front of the car shouted "There's a snake on the floor." A scene then ensued. The ladies in the car clambered up on to the seats, and many got on the arms and backs of the same. One elderly maiden managed to stand on the backs of two seats in the best circus manner possible under the circumstances, while a young mother threw her baby into a parcel rack, and then hung convulsively to a ventilator. The confusion awoke the countryman, who, on being told of the snake, first felt in his bundle, and then exclaimed, "I'm blamed if that old eel hain't got loose;" started for the front, and soon returned grasping firmly an immense eel, which he had first caught while out fishing, but which, when brought into the car, had managed to get out of the bundle, and had wended its way to the front, lovingly caressing the different varieties of ladies' garters which he encountered on the way. Apologies given and received straightened everything in that car but the hat that was jammed down, and the countryman leaving at the next station no blood was drawn.—*New York Times.*

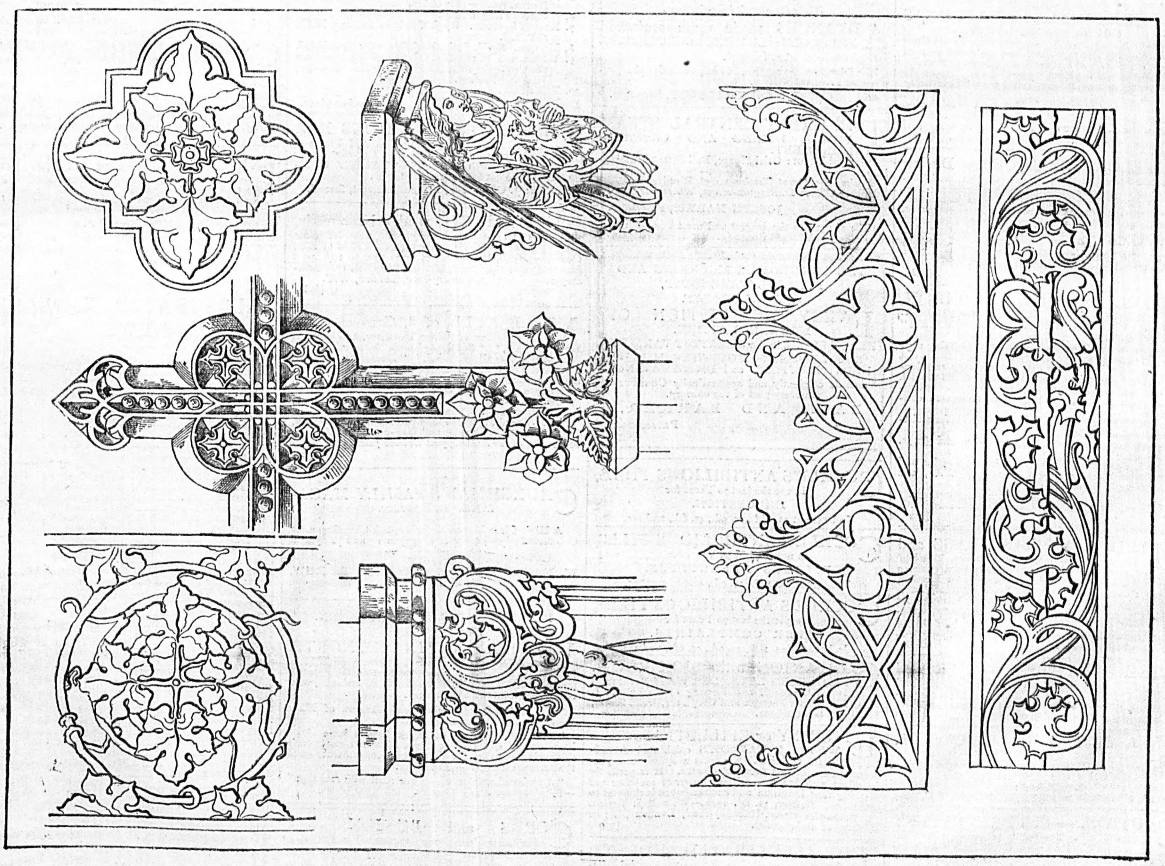
THE NEW M.P. FOR WESTMORELAND.—The Right Hon. Thomas Taylour, Earl of Bective, who has just been returned in the Conservative interest, without opposition, as one of the members for the county of Westmoreland, in the place of his father, who represented that constituency from the year 1854 down to his accession to the Peerage in December last, was born on the 11th of February, 1844. He is the only surviving son of Thomas, third and present Marquis of Headfort, by Amelia, only child and heiress of the late Mr, Alderman William Thompson, M.P., of Underley-hall, Westmoreland. He was educated at Christ Church, Oxford, and is a magistrate for Westmoreland, for which county he served as High Sheriff in 1868. Lord Bective married in 1867 the Lady Alice Maria Hill, only daughter of the Marquis of Downshire, by whom he has issue a daughter.

THE *La Plata* arrived in Kingstown Harbour on Saturday, having on board the new telegraph cable to be laid between Dublin and Holyhead. The Lord-Lieutenant visited the vessel in the afternoon, and the work of submersion commences at once.

LOUIS QUATORZE.



GOTHIC.



THE A. B. C. OF ORNAMENTAL DESIGN.—(*See Page* 122.)—TO BE CONTINUED.

AMUSEMENTS.

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HENRY W. GREEN, Secretary.

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LIVERPOOL SEAMEN'S ORPHAN INSTITUTION.

DONATIONS are earnestly requested towards the COST of the BUILDING about to be erected on Land granted by the Corporation of Liverpool, in Newsham Park.

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Donations may be paid to A. Heywood, Sons, & Co., Bankers, Liverpool; Barclay, Bevan, & Co., London; to James Beazley, Liverpool; R. Alexander, Treasurer; or to RALPH BROCKLEBANK, President. [227

LIFEBOAT SERVICES.—During the Storms of the past year the National Lifeboat Institution contributed to the saving of 784 lives from various shipwrecks and 21 vessels from destruction. It has now 225 Lifeboat Stations under its management. Contributions are earnestly solicited, and will be thankfully received by Messrs. Willis & Co., Coutts & Co., Herries & Co., by all the other London and Country bankers, and by the Secretary, RICHARD LEWIS, Esq., at the Institution, 14, John-street, Adelphi, London. [228

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Upwards of 500 Boys and Girls are now being supported in these Refuges and Ship.

Owing to the benevolent and praiseworthy exertions which have for several months been made to aid the sick and wounded in the present war, the funds for the support of these Refuges and Ship have decreased considerably.

An URGENT APPEAL is therefore made for assistance to support the inmates.

£15 will keep a boy or girl for one year, and £1 5s. for a month.

Contributions thankfully received by the London and Westminster Bank, 214, High Holborn, W.C., and 41, Lothbury, E.C., and by

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1, Wharf-road, City-road, London, April 8, 1868.

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"It has seemed so long since morning tide,
And I have been left so lone,
Young smiling faces throng'd my side
When the early sunlight shone,
But they grew tired long ago, and I saw them sink to rest,
With folded hands, and brows of snow on the green earth's mother breast." Miss Helen Burnside.

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THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE

For MARCH, 1871.

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